Bay Area Reporter

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395 NINTH ST., SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103



Surgeon general speaks out!

Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders charms the audience just prior to her January 27 talk at SF Community College. For more on the always candid surgeon general, see stories on page (Photo: Rick Ger

LAVA Moves Inexorably Forward

by Judi Parks

Bay Area Career Women president Laurel Donoho has announced that tickets are now available for the upcoming "Lesbians of Achievement, Vision, and Action" awards, which will be presented at their second annual hearfit dinner on Saturday. benefit dinner on Saturday,

April 2. The prestigious event will be held at the Westin St. Francis Hotel at Union Square to honor seven lesbians who have, through their actions, achievement, or work created lesbian visibility.

One of the most visible les-bians of all, nationally known author, sex educator, and

comedienne Joann Loulan comedienne Joann Loulan will serve as mistress of ceremonies. Loulan, author of The Lesbian Erotic Dance: Butch, Femme and Other Rhythms; Lesbian Passion: Lo Femme and Other Rhythms; Lesbian Passion: Loving Ourselves and Each Other; Lesbian Sex; and Petropic Continued a page 11.

(Continued on page 11)

A Real Philadelphia Story

Gay Lawyer with AIDS sees Justice too Late

by Wayne Hoffman

Tom Hanks may have won a Golden Globe for his portrayal of a lawyer with AIDS in *Philadelphia*, but the award that matters more went to Geoffrey Bowers in New York. Bowers recently won a record settlement against one of the country's leading law firms, claiming the firm fired him because he had AIDS.

had AIDS.

The New York State Division of Human Rights last month awarded \$500,000 in mental anguish damages, plus back pay, to be paid by Bowers's former employer, the law firm of Baker & McKentin Power worked as a prime zie. Bowers worked as an immigration lawyer for the Manhattan branch of the firm unhattan branch of the firm until 1986. At that time, Bowers developed visible Kaposi's Sarcoma due to AIDS, and was dismissed despite praiseworthy job performance.

Bowers testified that aside from causing obvious financial straits, his dismissal had devastated him emotionally.

"I was hurt, I was upset, I was angry," he said. "In light

of the fact that I was dealing with my AIDS and my Kaposi's Sarcoma, I merely felt as though they had taken the last thing in the world that meant anything to me."

Unfortunately, Bowers did not survive to see his victory. He died in 1987. The award will go to his mother, living in Massachusetts.

Daniel Felber of Balsam & Felber was a long-time per-

Daniel Felber of Balsam & Felber was a long-time personal friend of Bowers, and represented Bowers in the case. "I think the decision is wonderful," Felber says. "I feel my client, and now his estate, is completely vindicated and more importantly. Geoffrey did not spend the last

ed and more importantly, Geoffrey did not spend the last
months of his life for nothing.
He fought the good fight, and
this is a validation of it."
The figure for damages
seems low compared to more
publicized cases, the fictional
Philadelphia case included.
But the Division of Human
Rights is not authorized to Rights is not authorized to grant punitive damages, which can add millions of dol-

lars to court settlements.

Balsam & Felber chose to prosecute the case through

the Division rather than the courts, despite the much low-er potential award. Felber ex-plains that in 1986, the federal plains that in 1986, the federal courts did not yet classify AIDS as a disability; that clas-sification came in 1990 with the Americans with Disabili-ties Act. State courts were another option that would have allowed higher damages, but their process is even slower than the Division of Human

than the Division of Human Rights, and Bowers was in extremely poor health.

Bowers's lawyers decided to forego the punitive damages, in order to speed the hearings and allow their client to testify himself while he was still able. This choice turned out to be a wise one in retrospect: Bowers testified in

ne was still able. I'mis choice turned out to be a wise one in retrospect; Bowers testified in July, 1987, and died eight weeks later. In a courtroom case, he likely would have died before testifying.

Besides, the \$500,000 in mental anguish damages is a record for the Division, no small prize. "It is the highest award for mental anguish and pain and suffering ever awarded by the State Division of Human Rights in its history, and that is very pleasing to us," says Felber. "For the forum that we chose and for the reasons that we chose, we are very pleased with the for the reasons that we chose, we are very pleased with the result. In hindsight, had we gone to a different forum, we may not have won."

Obviously, not everyone is pleased with the outcome of

The Bay Area Reporter Celebrates Black History Month

'As One Black Gay Man...'

by Tony Glover, The Brothers Network

"And those who make out of the holocaust of their exis-ice, more than a self-made tomb, shall be known as survivors

Author unknown

— Author unknown

"For years now we have heard the word 'Waitl' It rings in the ear of every black person with piercing familiarity. Perhaps it is easy for those who have never felt the stinging darts of segregation to say, 'Wait.' But ... when you are forever fighting a degenerating sense of 'nobodiness' — then you will understand why we find it difficult to wait."

"I might not get there with you, but I want you to know tonight, that we as a people will get to the promised land."

"You are as good as anyone."

— Martin Luther King, Jr.

raativa

As a black man, I As a Diack man, i no longer will wait for what should have been provided years ago. Years be-fore Craig died. Years before James died. Before Arielle, Aunt Languard Lie Aunt Jenny, and Un-cle Vincent died.

Aunt Jenny, and Uncle Vincent died. Before mommy dies. From AIDS.

As a gay man I must hope against hope that the "shehe" some of us call God will show us how those labeled sexual outcasts will be delivered to the promised land.

As a black gay man, I find myself repeating Dr. King's words every day: "I am as good as anyone..." "As good as I am."

Everyday I reaffirm my grandmother's advice to me that I have a right to be here as I am. Grandma Pearline loves her black gay grandson. She wouldn't trade me for the world. One day, to reaffirm her love for me, she told me, "Don't listen to what the anti-gay people say, because Tony, we all got a right to be here."

Some days I think, all at once, of Craig, Arielle, James, Jenny, and Vincent. On these days, with ill-ease, I project the death of my mother and, in so doing, lose control of my emo-

lam overwhelmed, for I am convinced that their deaths were not meant to be. We should not, 14 years into this AIDS pandemic, find ourselves counting dead so many black souls. No one should turn away from this Godawful truth: for many—regardless of race, color or creed—AIDS will continue to be the genocide that did not have to be.

But, the U.S. government predicts by the year 2000 it will be African-Americans who are the majority decimated by AIDS. So for today, I speak mostly of the souls of black folk. Webster's dictionary defines genocide as "the deliberate and systematic destruction of a racial, political, or cultural group." Ignorant to history, some people say black folk use the word "genocide" too loosely. If they only knew how our history is filled with massacres deliberately borne of systemic racism—massacres unrestricted by timelines. The slave trade and lynchings and black infant mortality define more precisely our massacres.

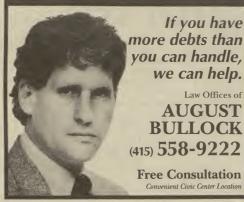
Spread throughout history, with its means changing with time, the goal of destroying a people can escape those who live only in their moment with no recollection of mine. However, I, as a black person, am deeply aware that oppressive racist systems and bigoted de-liberators seek to destroy, instead of build, black bodies, black spirits, black souls, and black minds. I, a black gay man, am deeply aware of heterosexist systems in all ethnic communities, including my own. I know black heterosexists deliberate with ease homo-bi-trans-sexual destruction by a disease which to many — black, brown, red, yellow, or white — refuse to claim as their own.

I will speak of the genocide. I name it without hesitation. I will call out the white racist and heterosexists (of all colors, races, and creeds) destined to be recorded by time as destroying — with deliberate speed, deafening silence and debilitating inaction on AIDS — the lives of black gay/bi/trans-sexual men.

(Continued on page 27)



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Looking for answers?

Community News



Gone but not forgotten: Flowers and other memorials mark the entrance to the Grog 'n' Groceries at Market and Castro, where 27-year-old clerk ''Stevie'' Young Tae Oh was murdered.

Merchants, Cops, Others, Meet in Wake of Castro Homicide

Merchants and other mem-bers of local gay and neigh-borhood business groups met last week, in the wake of the murder of a Castro area store clerk, to talk about crime in the Castro District.

The meetings followed the

Wednesday, January 26 murder of Steve Oh, 27, a clerk at KD's Grog and Grocery on the corner of 17th and Castro streets. Oh was shot several times with a large caliber weapon during an armed rob-bery at the store, according to San Francisco Police Depart-

ment homicide inspectors.
Oh is survived by his wife and daughter.

Crime in the Castro is not increasing, says officer Ray Benson, a Mission station cop, but is becoming increasingly

"We see the same numbers, but it's becoming more violent," Benson told the Bay Area Reporter. "These are desperate times for desperate people. Our folks need to be really aware when they are really aware when they are on the street and pay attention to what's going on.

In January, Mission Station responded to at least 20 vio-

lent crimes, mostly strong arm robberies and assaults with deadly weapons, in the Castro neighborhood.

But merchants also tend daily with shoplifters and street drunks, according to Les Hennessy of Hen-nessy's Liquors, a member of Merchants of Upper Market.

Hennessy and other members of the group met with Mission Station Captain Joaquin Santos and Benson the day after Oh was shot, to discuss the group's concern discuss the group's concern over crime problems, including increased uniformed beat patrols by police and the problems of street drunks. Police also gave merchants tips about crime prevention in their stores, including information about silent electronic "panic buttons" that summon police to a robbery summon police to a robbery in progress.

Santos and MOM agreed

to work together on common crime concerns, including crime prevention education crime prevention education and better enforcement of laws that outlaw liquor stores from selling alcohol to already intoxicated customers.

Although the Castro area has one beat officer assigned to walk the district, and po-

lice patrol cars are assigned to the area, it is unlikely that there will be an increase in regular police presence in the area because of serious underarea because of serious understaffing in the department. According to the Police Officer's Association, the understaffing continues, despite last year's passage of Proposition 172 that approved an additional \$44 million in state funds that were re-allocated to non-public safety funds.

Although a new police

non-public safety funds.
Although a new police academy class is expected to place an estimated 40 new officers on the street in the next year, 80 officers are expected to retire — and staffing levels will remain below a ten-year-old federally mandated requirement that the department have 1,971 officers.

Merchants and business owners' concerns were also

owners' concerns were also evident at a meeting of Castro area merchants on February area merchants on February 2. That meeting included representatives from In-Jean-ious, Herth Realty, New Buffalo Whole Foods, and the Golden Gate Business Association.

The group plans to network with MOM and meet with Supervisors Susan Leal and Carole Migden about their concerns.

Blue Eyed Bandit Update:

D.A.'s Office Says Lack of Evidence Prompted Buffleb's Release

by Dennis Conkin

Felony charges against Stefan Buffleb, the so-called "Blue Eyed Bandit," were dropped "because of a lack of evidence," according to a spokesperson for the San Francisco District Attorney.

Buffleb, who has been accused of theft by several gay men who met him in Castro Street gay bars, was arrested in the Castro on felony charges of burglary, credit card forgery, and possession of stolen property on Friday, January 14.

Mission Station police also charged the German national

charged the German national with misdemeanor assault on a police officer and resisting

arrest.

The felony charges against
Buffleb were dismissed be-Butlieb were dismissed be-cause the amount that Buffleb allegedly charged on a stolen credit card was "significantly less" than the \$400 required to make the crime a felony.

Buffleb was cited on the

misdemeanor charges, including possession of a stolen credit card, and is scheduled credit card, and is scheduled to appear in Municipal Court to answer to the charges and to have a trial date set.

According to alleged victims of Buffleb, after ingrati-

ating himself with his victims by telling him that he was a German tourist who was down on his luck and needed a place to stay, Buffleb would allegedly come home with them and steal their property.

One gay man allegedly lost

\$200 in stolen checks to Buf-fleb, plus an undetermined amount of jewelry and other

items.

Numerous victims have stepped forward to complain about Buffleb's alleged theft to the Bay Area Reporter—and make a flurry of complaints to the police inspector handling the misdemeanor charges against the tourist.

One B.A.R. reader said he met Buffleb on a flight to San Francisco from Paris last

Francisco from Paris last

September and that Buffleb later called him with a story Market Street and needed a place to stay. The reader let Buffleb stay with him for several days but asked him to leave a short time later after he began to believe Buffleb's hard luck story was a con and that he was possibly being set

that he was possibly being set up.
SFPD Fraud Inspector
Phil Tummarello requested that Buffleb's alleged victims file a report with their local district police stations and not contact him directly—because he is only handling the charges against Buffleb brought by one victim.

Although Buffleb is required to appear on the

quired to appear on the charges, and may do jail time if he is convicted, it is unlikely that he will be deported from the country on a misdemeanor by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, because the charges are not felony charges. ▼

Community News

Calling All Kids: LYRIC Pizza Party This Friday

Lesbian and gay youth from several local high schools will meet with mem-bers of Lavender Youth bers of Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center at a pizza party, cosponsored by the School District's Gay and Lesbian Support Services For Youth. The party is scheduled for this Friday, February 4, according to Crystal Jang, a staffer of the school program.

"Basically what we're trying to do is set up a time and create a place where they can come together and meet other

create a place where they can come together and meet other kids who don't access support service programs," Jang told the Bay Area Reporter.

"Many of the kids in school don't feel safe enough to come out as lesbian and gay or bisexual and don't know each other. It's basically a pizza party, and we hope a pizza party, and we hope that kids will come and get to know each other and to introduce school kids to LYRIC, Jang said.

Jang, an out lesbian teacher who has been with the project since September and with the school district for 24 years, says the joint project is just another effort of the program to reach out to lesbian and gay youth — and that's why she signed onto the pro-

"It's pretty much full circle for me. I came out 15 years ago. I was born and raised and educated in San Francis-



Clear as crystal: Crystal Jang of Support Services for Gay and Lesbian Youth.

co and I never thought a program like this would happen."

"An issue of visibility"

According to Jang, her involvement is an opportunity to be a role model to lesbian

to be a role model to lesbian and gay youth and expand the diversity and visibility of lesbians and gays of color. "It's an issue of visibility for me. I'm an Asian lesbian and it's really important that kids of color have someone to identify with. I make myself accessible," she said.

The program was recently.

accessible," she said.

The program was recently invited to a district school classroom by a teacher, after an episode of anti-gay epithets and name-calling among students in an area middle school, Jang said.

"We also do in-service edu-cation throughout the school system, helping teachers be-come more aware of — and how to respond to — diversity, and look at their homophobia,"

and look at their homophobia," she said.

The program also works with gay and lesbian teachers and parent associations.

"We do a wide range of things, including working with students who may be referred to us because they are having a sexual identity crisis, or questioning themselves, or

or questioning themselves, or having problems," Jang said. For more information about the programs of Support Services For Lesbian and Gay Youth contact Kevin Gogin or Crystal Jang at 749-3400. For more information about LYRIC, call 703-6150. ▼



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BAY AREA REPORTER FEBRUARY 3, 1994

Community News

Rocky Mountain School Seeks Gay and Lesbian Parents of Tots

by Dennis Conkin

Gay lesbian parents of children between the ages of two and a half to almost six years old, who are interested in joining a cooperative nursery, are now being sought by Rocky Mountain Participation Nursery at 15th and Beaver Streets in the Castro District.

The parents' cooperative, open weekdays mornings from September through May, is licensed by the state Department of Social Ser-vices for as many as 20 fami-

Because the school is a project of City College of San Francisco's Child Development and Family Studies Proment and ramily Studies Project, the program's students aren't the children — rather, they are the parents who are enrolled in CCSF's non-credit

The nursery is directed by a parent-educator assigned to the program full-time. The di-rector, Effie Kuriloff, an early rector, Effic Kuriloff, an early childhood education specialist and mother of three with a Master's from New York's prestigious Bank Street College of Education, has been with the program since 1965.

The school, which began in 1948 in Potrero Hill, moved to its current site at

moved to its current site at the Peixoto Clubhouse in 1977 after a period at the Eu-reka Valley Recreation Cen-

"We're inviting parents who want to learn about parenting and children and about themselves," Kuriloff told the Bay Area Reporter.

The school has had lesbian and gay parents as members before — including a gay male couple that helped the school get a grant from one of the couple's employers for the employers for the

program.

Parents who are involved with Rocky Mountain spend



Vise squad: A parent shows two children how to use a hammer and a vise at the Rocky Mountain Participation Nursery.

five hours a week at school with the children and also meet once a week in an "elder's circle" to talk amongst themselves, Kuriloff says.

Parents learn a great deal, too — about child development and about themselves as individual can will be be still a learning the same of the sa

ment and about themselves as individuals as well as learning parenting skills and having the opportunity to relate to other parents, said Trudy Li-onel, who has a daughter in the program.

"The people are wonderful"

"All the parents want the best for their children. It's a small school and the people are wonderful," Lionel said.

Rocky Mountain's emphasis is on developing a child's age and developmentally appropriate intellectual, physical, and emotional and social skills in the real world, Kuriloff said. Children attending the pro-

Children attending the program participate in a variety of daily group and individual activities: their projects run the gamut from field trips to painting, reading groups, games and other activities—such as wreath making, Play-Doh pounding, and carpentry

projects, often based on par-ent interests or skills. In the past, students have also helped to make a Names Pro-ject quilt section in memory of one of the kid's fathers who died of AIDS.

who died of AIDS.

Many of the children at the school attended that father's funeral and tossed glitter and dirt into the burial site as they completed their personal goodbye rituals to their friend.

Rocky Mountain "provides an antiidate to isolation expenses."

Rocky Mountain "provides an antidote to isolation experienced by families in urban San Francisco," Kuriloff says in one chapter of Throwing Light On What Is, a book she is completing.

"Bonding and trust develop as total strangers from various social, ethnic, and racial backgrounds come together in one school for their children. Only later do parents realize that the school provides them with important learning to ease their own journey into parenthood," she said.

School contact 552-2929. ▼

Santa Clara Boy Scouts Promise United Way Not To Discriminate

But Experts Think That's a Load of Crap

by Lyn Duff

The Santa Clara chapter of the Boy Scouts of America has signed an agreement with United Way of Santa Clara, promising not to discriminate against gay scouts and adult volunteers.

The agreement follows a military-style "don't ask, don't tell" policy. If a scout acknowledges his homosexuality that is considered "conduct" and is not protected under this new agreement. The agreement only states that the Boy Scouts will not violate civil rights unwill not violate civil rights un-der the constitution. However, the BSA has claimed in a rethe BSA has claimed in a re-cent lawsuit initiated by Tim Curran, a gay former scout, that the group is immune from the tederal civil rights bill because its express pur-pose is to be anti-gay.

Wigsy Siverston of Bay Area Municipal Election Com-mittee recently met with Unit

mittee recently met with United Way to express her concerns regarding the agree-

ment. "The United Way has ment. The United Way has been hoodwinked into believ-ing what the BSA is saying, and United Way is caught in an untenable bind because



donors are saying 'if you don't give to the scouts, we won't give to you.' The bottom line is that our issues don't count

is that our issues don't count. If this was about blacks or Jews, we wouldn't be here."

A few weeks before it was discovered that an agreement between Santa Clara United Way and the BSA was being negotiated, it also came to light that Santa Cruz Boy

Scouts had approached United Way with a similar proposal. Feeling that it had a breakthrough, Santa Cruz United Way contacted Ken McPherson of Forgotten Scouts, an organization of gay former boy scouts. They were not expective his response to the second of the second

ing his response to it.

"Both agreements were completely fraudulent," he told the Bay Area Reporter.

"The BSA knew when it signed them that it wouldn't signed them that it wouldn't actually follow the agree-ment." After speaking to McPherson, the United Way of Santa Cruz confronted the Boy Scouts, which immediate-ly withdrew its request for funding.

Siverston sees the recent events as a step forward, not because she believes the scouts are going to stop dis-criminating against gays, but because "we were told if it was shown that the BSA dis-criminates that they could be defunded, and that's definitely a step forward." ▼

Community News



A boy's best friend: super salesperson and makeup artist to the stars, Juliet White, was 86ed from Nordstrom's after assisting a male client at her counter. (Photo: Rick Gerharter)

How Much Does Nordstrom's Hate **Oueers?**

Nordstrom's department store said "Happy New Year" to a make-up artist who made \$200,000 in cosmetics sales at the store last year by firing her, apparently because she was spending too much time making up men, including well known performance artists and female imperson-

Juliet White, who holds a bachelor's degree from an es bachelor's degree from an es-teemed local art school, al-leges to the Bay Area Re-porter that she was in the middle of assisting a male make-up client at the counter on New Year's Eve when she received a call to report to her manager's office. After she had finished serving the customer, she reported to the office, where she says she was office, where she says she was office, where she says she was told she was being terminated because of two customers' complaints. White says she was told both complaints came from women, one of whom complained that White was busy selling merchandise to a man and hadn't assisted

Although White remembers the customer, she said that no Nordstrom's supervisor or manager had ever bothered to discuss the inci-

bothered to discuss the incident with her.

"There were three people ahead of her. No one came to me and told me about the complaint," White told the Bay Area Reporter.

A Nordstrom's spokesperson said that White's dismissal had nothing to do with her allegations.

her allegations.

Although Kjorina Boyd, a Nordstrom's spokesperson,

said "it would be unfair to said "it would be uniar to discuss any employee's reason for leaving Nordstrom's," she did tell the Bay Area Reporter that customer complaints has "nothing to do" with White's firing.

Boyd also said that makevers and cosmetic demonstrations.

overs and cosmetic demon-stration were provided free to men and women customers alike, and that Nordstrom's valued every customer "including members of the gay

Uncustomary customers?

Among White's customers are local performance artists and impersonators such as Madeline, Jade, and Pussy Tourette, as well as actors and others entertainers.

"I did a lot of the club kids

They'd all come on Saturday and they all wanted me to help them. Maybe they thought I was being too friendly, but they were customers," White said.

White said that she was terminated because the store.

minated because the store didn't like her assisting cutting edge performance artists with

cosmetic merchandise.
"It was definitely homophobic. They just don't under-

phobic. They just don't under-stand creative people.

"I just don't know what else to say," White told the B.A.R. "I'd forgotten what it's like to be in a suburban store. I'm an artist and I'm used to being around creative people, "she said.

According to White, Nord-strom's manager are recruited

strom's manager are recruited from within the chain; many are from outside San Francisco and do not understand or relate well to gays — especially those who are on the cut-

ly those who are on the cut-ting edge of contemporary ur-ban culture.

"They don't really under-stand the gay community, but that community is our Holly-wood," White said.

White, who has a B.F.A. from the California College of Arts and Crafts, has contacted an attorney about the termi-nation and has also filed for unemployment.

nation and has also filed for unemployment.
Ironically, the firm that makes the popular cosmetic is MakeUp Art Company, a Toronto-based enterprise started by two gay lovers who used to use drag queens in their fashion shows, according to White. to White.

White was one month away from receiving an instore award for selling almost \$210,000 of the firm's products when she was told she was fired.

The company's popular products including color pots, foundation, and other items, are only available at Nordstrom's, locally.

Prior homophobia?

White's charges of homophobia are the latest to hit the retail outlet.

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The Trinity parishioner de-The Irinity parisnioner de-nied the charges but the store failed to respond to a request of Father Robert Cromey, rector of the church, to meet

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urtesy consultation and exam with this ad.



with him and the parishioner about the incident. ▼

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Editorial

Justice Forever/Justice For Evers

It seems only fitting that the trial that may finally bring justice to bear on the killer of the great African-American civil rights worker Medgar Evers kicks off in February, Black His-

rights worker Medgar Evers kicks off in February, Black History Month. In fact, too many people don't remember Evers, or his tireless crusade to bring equality to all: that's why America needs a Black History Month. We could also use, obviously, a gay history month to let people know where we've been and where we are.

The Evers case, for those who don't know, is almost 30 years old now. Evers was shot dead in his driveway in 1965 with a gun belonging to an avowed white supremacist named Byron De La Beckwith, who claimed at the time the gun had been stolen and that he was not the murderer. De La Beckwith was apparently more forthcoming with other people he considered compatriots: at least two have now testified he bragged about committing the crime.

sidered compatriots: at least two have now testified he bragged about committing the crime.

This is De La Beckwith's third trial for Evers's murder; the first two juries were all white, all male, and all too eager to tacitly support his actions by holding out for mistrials. (There is some evidence of jury tampering in the second trial, and there may be irregularities in the first, as well.) Now, prosecutors hope, there may be a chance to put De La Beckwith behind bars and provide some small measure of comfort to Evers's widow and the children who heard the gunshot and ran out to find their father — or, more specifically, a dead body that used to be their father. A guilty verdict will not bring him back to them, but it will ameliorate a situation that has been without a bright side for 29 years.

We mention this because when the latest trial opened, a prosecutor told CNN that "the eyes of the world are upon Mis-

We mention this because when the latest trial opened, a prosecutor told CNN that "the eyes of the world are upon Mississippi." We hope so. And we hope that the world focuses exactly 100 miles away from the courthouse where the trial is held, to see what's happening in Ovett.

That is, of course, where Sister Spirit is located, the camp run by two lesbians who moved to the rural area to be isolated from city strife and bask in nature. Instead, they have been hounded by over 400 petty De La Beckwiths-in-training. For an update on the case, see Marghe Covino's stories on pages 14 and 15.

an update on the case, see Margine Cornel

14 and 15.

As Covino points out, the Klan Act of 1875 seems to address some of the problems we in the lesbian and gay community are now facing at the hands of narrow-minded bigots. Perhaps it is time for the groups that say they are working on securing our rights to stop reinventing the wheel and use the statutes already on the books, instead of waiting for our obviously sexually frustrated lawmakers to pass a bill that will do any good. We hope they are taking note.

Mississippi God Damage

Returning to De La Beckwith for a moment, he reportedly made a comment that he would do anything necessary "for a white Christian nation." We don't doubt that he said that, any more than we doubt he and Jesus Christ would despise each other if they ever met.

We also wonder what the Ovett townsfolk would say if that

we also woulder what the Overt townstork would say it that carpenter and his dozen male compatriots (plus the occasional visiting whore, etc.) showed up to start a commune. Undoubtedly the town would be in the same kind of uproar it is now experiencing over the Sister Spirit women.

Probably, we think, the Overtans would kill Jesus. In his own name, of course.

Lots and lots of people have been killed in the name of

own name, of course.

Lots and lots of people have been killed in the name of God, despite His own pronouncement to judge not. We hope nobody at Sister Spirit will fall into that sad category. And we pray that the United States government is on the ball, watching for further signs of trouble.

We wish everyone at Sister Spirit the best, and hope for all concerned that the eyes of the world remain on Mississippi for a while.

A Final Wish

And to everyone everywhere, including Byron De La Beckwith: have a thoughtful, informed, and humanitarian Black History Month! ▼

NEXT ISSUE OUT: FEBRUARY 10, 1994

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Guest Opinion

Goodbye Les, from a Navy NCO

by Christopher A. Plount Petty Officer Second Class, U.S. Navy

Farewell, Secretary of Defense Les Aspin, it's been an eventful year. Thanks for the hours of overtime you put in on vacation at taxpayers' expense in Italy, and for supporting the airline industry by flying commercial when you took that vacation to the Bahamas. I'm sure American Airlines enjoyed having you aboard, and gave you first class treatment after you crossed that darn picket line to make the gate. We know you'd like to share the credit with the President, but we can't forget your office writes policy for the DoD: the President's signature only puts it into effect.

nature only puts it into effect.
Soldiers in Somalia are thankful to you for giving them a chance to test out their weapons in a combat scenario, watch their friends get blown away and captured by hostile forces, all courtesy of your neglect to provide the addi-tional armor they desperately needed. Does the word "culpability" mean anything to you, sir? And let's not forget the most unusual gift a

new policy on homosexual behavior for our na-tion's warriors.

tion's warriors.

Thanks to your efforts, gay servicemembers can serve as long as they don't make anyone too uncomfortable and "don't engage in or have the propensity to engage in homosexual acts." As a product of a Texas education, I might not see all the ramifications of this statement, but it seems illegal to place those restrictions on homosexuals but not heterosexuals. Saying "servicemembers are not allowed to engage in or have the propensity to engage in any sexual act' seems much more equitable, and should prevent all those nasty discrimina-

any sexual act" seems much more equitable, and should prevent all those nasty discrimination cases heading your way.

Understandably, the majority of gay and lesbian servicemembers are discreet in their relationships and separate their professional and personal lives. I do wonder what constitutes a "reasonable person." Are "reasonable" people exclusively heterosexual? Is the word of an ac-

cusing officer considered more "reasonable" than that of a defensive enlisted man?

Mr. Aspin, as you are aware, when a person

in M. Aspin, as you are a wate, when a person is accused of a crime in this great land of ours, the burden of proof lies with the state. Bearing this in mind I hope you can understand how deeply concerned I was to hear a pentagon spokesperson state, "If it becomes clear that they are homosexual, if they state their homogeneity has been become their them. they are homosexual, it they state their homosexuality, they have the opportunity to show that they do not engage in acts." In essence, the servicemember is considered guilty, and must prove himself innocent and dispel the charges leveled against him. A gay male must show that he has not had sex with other men, a lesbian with women. How this can be presented in heavend me.

is beyond me.

Now it's time for you to ride into the sunset

Now it's time for you to ride into the sunset — with almost certain book deals and a lecture series in tow. Your tenure at the Pentagon might have been short, sir, but the nation will always remember the, shall we say, interesting state of affairs you left at the DoD.

Naturally, as with all great leaders, there is an opportunity of you to leave a parting quote for which you will always be remembered. My personal favorite so far is, "The important thing is that an acrimonious fight in Congress was avoided. The Defense Authorization bill was passed and the White House was permitted to preserve its political capital for other was passed and the White House was permitted to preserve its political capital for other fights." In other words, "It's a damn good thing that we got our money and thank God we didn't waste any more of our President's tenuous credibility with the military and Congress on an issue I don't care about in the first place." Very memorable.

It is said that a President is only as good as his advisors. Bearing this — and your quote — in mind, I now understand why it took this administration nine months to get off the starting block. In short, Mr. Aspin, you have left quite a mess for prospective SecDef Perry. But leaving messes behind is something you seem to excel at — just ask my shipmates in Somalia.▼

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Letters

Gay Youth Rights

In response to your editorial remark that Catholic priests who join NAMBLA should "put their money where their mouths are," I take this to imply that you feel there is some natural affinity between the stated positions of the Catholic Church and those of NAMBLA. I find this comparison ironic, since the Catholic Church embodies exactly those authoritarian elements of American culture, against which elements of American culture against which NAMBLA has struggled for 15 years and represents a near-perfect contrast for NAMBLA's own egalitarian

philosophy.

The treatment of Catholics by the Church is directly analagous to the treatment of young people by our legal system: "we'll tell you when you're being abused... questioning our authority is a sin... we'll protect you from one authority figure by putting you under

you from one authority figure by putting you under the control of yet another one."

It is precisely this paternalistic, inherently abusive attitude which NAMBLA seeks to change. The group has called for the granting of full legal rights for young people so that they can press charges and file suits for themselves, and for alternative housing and economic support so that they can escape the abuse of family pemphase without transitional proceedings. Other support so that they can escape the abuse of family members without traumatic court proceedings. Other demands include greater access for young people to educational resources, including control over curriculum — removing the parental "right" of depriving young people of sex education and gay-positive curriculum — and full access to information and resources for family planning and STD prevention. Such measures would empower young people to defend their own interests and ensure that their voices are heard.

I am also puzzled by your inability to print anything other than innuendo about NAMBLA or to publish anything of substance about the issues the group was anything of substance about the issues the group was formed to address. NAMELA is one of the oldest gay rights groups currently operating, and was founded in response to an explicitly anti-gay witch hunt against a group of men and mostly teenaged boys who refused to file complaints against their lovers and resented the destructive intrusion of homophobic police and media into their lives. into their lives

This country has serious problems with homophobia and abuse of young people by parents and by insitutions both secular and religious. Gay youth suffer disproportionately from both of these op

> David Miller San Francisco

Exercise More Caution

I am writing to respond to Joseph Kramer's letter in the Jan. 27 issue of the B.A.R. In this letter, Mr. Kramer criticizes the advertisement in your paper by Armerican Voicemail, Inc., and writes that he has spent the last 10 years of his professional life trying to "lower the amount of fear among men." As the Gay Men's Domestic Violence Project Coordinator here at CUAV, I have spent the last three years urging gay and bisexual men to exercise more caution in their approach

to dating and sexual situations.

It can actually be quite dangerous to be alone with someone you don't know very well. Opening your home, getting into a car or having sex in a public place with a complete stranger can make you incredibly vulnerable, even if he "looks clean-cut" and seems all-around perfect. It seems reasonable, not paranoid, to give a stranger (even if you want to date or have sex with him, he's still a stranger) a voice mail instead of a home telephone number.

I have assisted literally hundreds of men who have been date raped, assaulted, drugged, robbed and otherwise abused by men whom they believed they could trust. Most of them never imagined that this could happen to them. Unfortunately, gay and bisex ual men are no more immune from date assault than

It is not CUAV's mission to promote fear, fear of in-timacy, paranoia or anti-sex attitudes. It is our mission to provide accurate information so that people can make the best possible choices concerning their per-

Finally, violence is always the responsibility of the perpetrator and "bad judgement" never excuses or justifies violence. If you are victimized by a date or partner, call our CrisisLine at 333-HELP for support and information about our counseling and advocacy

> Greg Merrill, Gay Men's Violence Project Coordinator, C.U.A.V. San Francisco

E-Mail Enthusiasm

I have just finished reading David Batterson's article about Millenium Online in the Bay Area Reporter and I enjoyed it very much.

I saw MO's inside front-cover ad in Ten Percent and

ordered the disk but I decided not to sign on (the in-terface seemed kind of primitive and the sign-on seemed pretty complicated, a bad omen for me), but Batterson's article has persuaded me to give the ser-

Bryce Hardy brycehardy@aol.com

Attitude = Death

The following letter was sent to Pat Christen, Executive Director, San Francisco AIDS Foundation:

Please remove my name from your contributors list. I cannot justify my continuing support of an organiza-tion which contributes to the invisibility of older gay men. Your latest barrage of bus posters depicting yet another wreathed Adonis confirmed my anger. Once

again, we are invalidated.

In your perverse way, you actually contribute to an attitude that leads older gay men to have unsafe sex.

From your years of poster boys, it is safe to surmise that men over 40 couldn't be having sex or we are all that men over 40 dead. Surprise!

Perhaps your campaign committee needs to do a lit-tle soul-searching regarding its ageist mentality. Or would they prefer we all die off so as not to remind them that they too will soon be old? It must terrify some of the young men around town to try visualiz-

Please don't tell me you are working on the problem. You have had 10 years to work on it and you have consciously chosen not to. There is lots of anecdotal information which should have informed you that gay men of all ages are having unsafe sex for all variety of reasons. If you're young, it's because you're immor-tal; if you're old, what is there to look forward to but

The queer world has intensified what is already an endemic cultural disregard for allowing older people to have whole lives which includes sex. As a subculture, we bray on about every perceived affront to our personal and social freedoms, yet, blithely perform personal and social freedoms, yet, blithely perform personal and social freedoms, yet, blithely perform personal and social freedoms. form emotional assassination every day against

It is not only silence that equals death; attitude equals death ... acknowledgement equals life.

Philip Rossetti San Francisco

Bath House vs. Sex Club

The following letter was sent to Dr. Sandra Hernandez, Dept. of Public Health, 101 Grove St., Room 308, San Francisco, CA 94102:

As a gay man living in San Francisco, I love the freedoms here that so much of the rest of the U.S. deprives its gay and lesbian sons and daughters. One of those freedoms is my choice to visit a sex club. Granted, I have been to sex clubs that have been very dirty and disgusting [I have refused to visit these] and

dirty and disgusting (I have retused to visit these) and I have occasionally seen unprotected oral sex between consenting adults. I have never seen unprotected anal sex but this is not to say it does not exist. If we start closing sex clubs because "it contributes to the spread of the AIDS virus," then closing bars, dance clubs, restaurants, Bingo halls, etc. that serve liquor and beer cannot be far behind. These also constitutes to the spread of the AIDS virus," the constitution of the server of the tribute to one's way of thinking as reported by top medical authorities.

medical authorities.

If one is closing the sex clubs because of uncleanlines, then it is time to think about reopening bathhouses where the lighting is better, showers are provided, clean towels and bedding, socializing is encouraged and work out opportunities are available. Several establishments I know of offer safe sex classes, anonymous testing, etc. I feel it is better having sex clubs that provide

cleanliness, safety for patrons and a place to go to socialize or have sex. Who knows — maybe both. I prefer bath houses to sex clubs, but until then we have to live (or die) for whatever we believe in

> Steven D. Keller San Francisco

Primacy of Love

Friends of mine were so amused by Mike Varady's letter captioned, "Membership Has Privilege?" (B.A.R., Jan. 13, 1994, pp.8) suggesting NAMBLA of fer group membership relates to Catholic priests, as well as your own clever retort, that I would have been hard pressed to miss it.

hard pressed to miss it.

First, let me praise you both for the adroitness of your wit and the cleverness of your banter, it brought a wry smile to my face.

Second, as a gay man, a Catholic-Christian and a secular Franciscan, I've always found it bemusing that there exists this repartee between some members of the community and some members of the church since both communities talk about justice and claim the primacy of love as their praxis. Both communities have enriched my life. And, I am grateful to both. Perhaps, "in the spirit of conciliation and the recently past holiday season ..." we can move beyond stereotypes and globalizing to see each other as individuals (for who we really are), and not as a group (for what others say about us). Maybe, as co-joint members of the human community, we can accord each other the privilege of our own humanity.

Pax et bonum, Mark. J. Walker, San Francisco



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BAY AREA REPORTER FEBRUARY 3, 1994 PAGE 8

Letters

Gay Irrelevant to Leadership

The following letter was sent to the SF Bay Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, 124 Beale St., San Francisco:

With regard to my rejection as a pack leader for San Francisco Pack 3 (Chinatown-North Beach), the parents of Pack 3 had a meeting on Friday, Jan. 14 to select a new leader. I said that I would take the position if I could declare that I was gay. I was summarily rejected for consideration for the position.

Let me mention a few of my qualifications: I grew up a Scout and found scouting an enjoyable and worth-while activity. My son is a Scout and he loves it. I was formerly a school teacher. I have written a book and numerous newspaper and magazine articles. I own my own business and am a respected member

own my own business and an a respected member of the business community.

I am and have been an active member of Amnesty International for decades. Gay civil rights now have international recognition. Gay civil rights have widespread Bay Area community support. I cannot in good conscience take a leadership position in an organization that discriminates. I had several parents agree that being gay is as irrelevant as being straight, Black, Chinese, Jewish or Mexican for Scout leadership.

leadership.

I urge the Council to cease their bigotry and recognize contemporary and community standards of human rights. If they cannot, they should not complain about a cut-off of funding from organizations like United Way and assistance from government agencies. It's time for the Boy Scouts Council to lead the good ficht.

Quit Limiting Opportunities

Regarding Alan Frutkin's recent article, "Back to the Couch," I am (once again) disturbed by the BA.R.'s carelessness in covering topics of interest or concern to its non-white readers. Why does Mr. Frutkin to its non-white readers. Why does Mr. Frutkin assume that any gay material programmed in the Living Room Festival came exclusively from Frameline? Did the reporter bother to interview Jennifer Maytorena Taylor (one of Mr. Finch's coprogrammers), a latina queer? Perhaps if he had done so, he would have reported more accurately that Seams, although decided upon collectively by Frameline, Cine Accion and NAATA, was originally brought forth to the committee by Ms. Taylor. Is it so inconceivable that just because people of color work for ethnically identified organizations that

Is it so inconceivable that just because people of color work for ethnically identified organizations that they cannot also be lesbian, gay, queer, bisexual, transgender? Or that these same people cannot be as concerned with lesbian and gay issues as (white) lesbian and gay people seem to be with issues of racism? God knows we're always referencing and making analogies to oppression faced by blacks. The reporter did not assume that Jack Walsh wasn't gay (or is gay) just because he works for KQED.

My point is simple: please quit limiting opportunities for people to have a voice in your publication.

my point is simple. Please quit imming oppor-tunities for people to have a voice in your publication. Follow Frameline's example in future: focus on the commonalities of oppression, "on what lesbians and gays share with other cultural groups." They might even share the same sexuality!

San Francisco

Save the Memorials

The brief UPI report on a proposed AIDS memorial "garden" in San Diego's Balboa Park is accurate but limited (B.A.R., Jan. 20). A reader might wonder if opponents were unsympathetic.

Actually, debate has been raging within San Diego's

queer and AIDS communities for several months. Many AIDS activists fear diversion of funds away from urgently needed care and research.

A few persons propose different types of memorials, less vulnerable to vandals, such as new carillon bells for the park, or a silent CD version of The Names Quilts. After the war, not during.

G. Tortuga La Jolla, CA

Prowling and Sniffing

In the spirit of achieving and maintaining a more In the spirit of achieving and maintaining a more pleasant urban environment, the Duboce Park Poop Patrol (DPPP) — an underground organization dedicated to eradicating the despicable practice of persons permitting their canines' crap to become a permanent part of the park's composition — is redoubling its efforts to stymie this type of park pollution.

the efforts to styme this type of park pollution. Whenever a human companion feigns unfamiliarity with a four-legged friend who is squatting in response to nature's nudging, we will be there! Whenever a person pulls a car over to the curb, flings open a door with the motor still running, a quadrupedal bundle of fur speeds into the park, dumps, then darts back into the car — we'll be there!

San Francisco

Ed. Note: We welcome the return of Duboce Park

Hurricane Homo

On the night of Jan. 17th, following the earthquake in Los Angeles, Pat Robertson went on the 700 Club in Los Angeles, Pat Robertson went on the 700 Club to announce that gay and lesbian people were responsible for (1) the earthquake, (2) the blizzards in the eastern U.S., (3) the floods in the midwest, (4) the hurricane in Florida and (5) the famine in Africa. He "reasoned" that these natural disasters were the judgement of "god" upon America because the right wing has not risen up and "done something" about us. I would ordinarily ignore him, except that he was in the middle of a telethon that had already raised \$1.17 million to keep his dog and pony show on the air. Please note that the money was being raised for that purpose and not for victims of the earthquake, blizzard, floods hurricane or the faminel

If you disagree with him, please call him at 1-800 759-0700 and let him know. It's his nickel ... every call we make is that much less money for him to spend on gay bashing.

gay bashing.

San Diego

Double Standards Are Sickening

Let me see if I've got this right

Angela Alioto is being criticized for removing two "lesbian supervisors" from various committees of the Board of Supervisors.

A few weeks ago, Alioto was being slammed for referring to Carole Migden as a "lesbian supervisor."

Now, a group called The Alliance has taken it upon themselves to speak for the gay/lesbian community and inform Ms. Alioto that "we" will not support her in the 1995 mayoral race because of her non-support of the two "lesbian supervisors" for reelection.

There has been also for talk about the possibility of

There has been a lot of talk about the possibility of Carole Migden running for mayor in 1995. Many people have stated that it is time for a "lesbian mayor." I agree. It would be great to have a lesbian mayor." Roberta Achtenberg. But the fact that a person is gay or lesbian does not automatically qualify them. I am so sick of the double standard that goes on in politics

Ronny Marshall San Francisco

See You At Easter

You've done it again! Volunteers, we heartily salute you! The Tenderloin Tessie Christmas Dinner was an even more resounding success than ever before. Between 800 and 900 people had a brighter, more caring holiday because of your hard work. It is with sincerest gratitude that we, quite simply thank you! Also special thanks to Polk Gough and Suzie Cartwright, Emperor Douglas Stromberg, Empress Mozzarella, Gladys Bumps & Husbands

Looking forward to having your participation for our Easter Dinner. You are appreciated.

Mr. Lee Ona and Pushy Phyllis San Francisco

Human Arrogance

Michael Botkin's "comic" picture of guinea pigs discussing their poison in an animal research laboratory was not funny! It was repulsive and cruel and clearly states the author's crude insensitivity to the poor, tortured and murdered animals that are sacrificed in the name of medical research estimated at 100 million a year.

Oh, such human arrogance that anyone could even make a joke about the misery and suffering that con-tinues to happen in laboratories all over the world. The number of animals that are subjected to the most atrocious and painful procedures without anesthetic makes the Nazi/Holocaust look mild!!

And if the lack of morality does not move you, then perhaps the scientific fraud will. Animal experimen-tation is fraudulent research. Animals have a different reaction to drugs than humans. Just remember the reaction to drugs than humans. Just remember the Thalidomide babies of the 60s. Pregnant women were given Thalidomide after the FDA approved the drug after being clinically tested on rats. The result: 10,000 grossly deformed human babies were born because the rats tested successfully. Conclusion: rats are dif-ferent from humans. Unfortunately, Thalidomide is

still prescribed through a different name. So, there, Michael Botkin, author of the HIV Watch. If you really want to help find a cure for AIDS, start educational alternative methods of research, i.e., the human placenta. And maybe you will be instrumental in finding a cure for AIDS.

Rev. Judy Fine Healdsburg, California

Ed. Responds: (a) The cartoon was not by Botkin; Ed. Responds: (a) The cartoon was not by Botkin; (b) Oh, such arrogance that anyone could even suggest medical research to save human life, carried out on animals, equals the suffering of six million Nazisponsored human deaths; (c) the Thalidomide tragedy wasn't caused by lab rats; the practice of screening drugs by testing them on animals has no doubt saved other babies from birth defects — not that you care; and, (d) Go ahead and be ashamed. Your holier-thanthou attitude is more than enough reason for shame. [In other words: so there!] [In other words: so there!]

Garamendi Gears Up For Gubernatorial Bid

Jackson (who some say will

come to California to cam-paign for Garamendi) on the

need to spend more on social programs, and bemoaned the state's ever-growing corrections budget, noting that "in the past 12 years, we've built 23 major jails in this state and only one state college came.

only one state college cam-pus, and yet I ask you, do you really think you are safer?" While promising to "end state

ohn Garamendi, the 49year-old professional
politician from the Gold
Rush area of Calaveras
County, formally announced this past weekend
that he is indeed in the race
for the Democratic Party
nomination for governor.
However, Garamendi, a veteran of 20 years in public office
(two in the Assembly, 14 in
the state Senate, and the last
four as the state's first elected
insurance commissioner),
finds himself in an uphill battle for his party's nod to face
Republican incumbent Pete
Wilson in November. First,
Garamendi must find a way
to defeat fellow Democrat
Kathleen Brown, a much better-known candidate who also
happens to have a huge political war chest (some claim \$7
million or more), when he
faces her in the June Democratic primary. million or more), when he faces her in the June Demo-cratic primary.

cratic primary.

Although both Garamendi and Brown lead Wilson in current statewide polls in hypothetical November matchups, many think Brown has the definite advantage merely by being a woman in a state that in 1992 elected two women to the U.S. Senate. However, although Kathleen Brown led both Garamendi and Wilson by huge margins in earlist led both Garamenth and Wilson by huge margins in earlier polls, the gap between the two Democrats has been closing as of late, and some Democratic state officials are known to be secretly worried that having two women at the head of their ticket (Senator Diagna Emptre). Dianne Feinstein must stand

Commentary

for re-election this year) might actually be a political disad-vantage. If Garamendi keeps closing the gap between him-self and Brown, she could, de-spite her early lead and ad-vantage in fundraising, find herself on the short end when feeing him in June

Like all statewide hopefuls, Garamendi's announcement Saturday brought with it assurances that he, too, will be running as a tough law-and-order candidate. Crime is the issue for candidates of both parties this year, and Garamendi, not to be left out, pledged a hard line on crimi-nals. He touted boot camps for felons, supported the death penalty, and embraced the controversial "three strikes and you're out" initiative headed for the November

ballot.

Saying that it is time to get rid of the Inmate's Bill of Rights, which he stated "guarantees prisoners access to television, air conditioning, libraries and weight sets," Garamendi left no room for doubt that he could be as tough on crime as any Democrat—or Republican. However tough on crime as any Demo-crat — or Republican. Howev-er, while blaming much of the state's problems on crime, Garamendi also went out of his way to praise drug treatment programs, claiming that "most crime is drug-related and I'll find the money for treatment programs because it is one of my priorities." In the press conference at

his Mokelumne Hill home. Garamendi even quoted Jesse

welfare programs as we currently know them," the candidate also said this does not mean cutting money from families but rather providing them with state-created jobs which even he admitted would probably cost more than the current welfare sys-

Garamendi has in previous speeches already staked out the lonely position of being the only gubernatorial hopeful to call for a tax hike to help pay for the rebuilding of post-quake Los Angeles, but refused to talk about this on Saturday, preferring to stay focused on crime like every other politico. Get used to it, folks; the Polly Klaas case, the Menendez brothers trial, the continuing rise in crime statistics make it a foregone conclusion: the winners in November will be the candi-

November will be the candidates who best convince the electorate that they will be tougher on crime.

As for the Democratic nominee against Wilson, well, Brown clearly has the advantage now, but John Garamendi is looking better and better to those chomping at the bit to get rid of Wilson. I wouldn't be surprised if he is the upset Democratic primary winner in June. Stay tuned to this one; it's only beginning.

Politics and poker

To those who have called complaining that "leaders" of the Toklas Democratic Club have decided that their group will "boycott" a meeting with Mayor Jordan later this month: yep, this is definitely what's called "biting off your nose to spite your face.' Nope, it doesn't make sense. Nope, it doesn't make sense. Hell, folks, you don't have to agree with everything Jordan does or says, but don't cry later that he isn't sympathetic or cooperative if you won't even meet with the guy.

When Representative Don

Edwards announced last week that he'd retire from his 16th congressional seat, former San Jose Mayor Tom McEnery, already tipped off in advance by Edwards, was ready to make the first entry into the race to succeed the into the race to succeed the veteran Democrat. Others will no doubt follow suit, but McEnery's the man to beat in this safe Democratic district. At the National Governors

At the National Governors Conference this past weekend, even many Republicans were saying that Bill Clinton's State of the Union address was "one hell of a speech" by the young president.

Olympic diver and aspiring actor Greg Louganis is writing his biography to be published by Random House. In it he publicly reveals his

published by Random House. In it he publicly reveals his homosexuality for the first time; the Olympic gold-medal winner says that "I know Wheaties didn't want me [for commercials] because they said I didn't fit their all-American image. I don't know if that was because they had heard of my sexual orientation or not, but my feeling was that if companies were so uptight about this, I didn't want to work with them anyway."

want to work with them anyway."
Hillary Rodham Clinton received a Commitment-to-Life award last week at the AIDS Project Los Angeles fundraising banquet in LA, where nearly \$4 million was raised to fight the epidemic. The first lady received a rousing standing ovation, and the award was presented by Barbra Streisand, who, like Elizabeth Taylor, has dedicated so much of her work and time to finding the cure. Some of Assemblywoman Jackie Speier's friends are now quietly saying that they expect her to retire from politics following the sad, tragic

itics following the sad, tragic death of her popular husband, Dr. Steve Sierra. I've known Speier since she first ran for

Speier since she first ran for the Assembly, and there isn't a nicer person in public life.

Dennis Collins is now working on the Arlo Smith for Attorney General campaign, and Mike Housh is working on the Don Perata for Controller race.

Former San Francisco political consultant loe Shumate

has resigned from Governor Wilson's staff, reopened his campaign management firm, and will run GOP Assemblyman Bill Jones' campaign for secretary of state. Quote of the Week (on the Lorena Bobbitt trial) from Su-

Lorena Bobbitt trial) from Susan Estrich, longtime feminist activist, political consultant, national campaign manager for Michael Dukakis' presidential race, and now a law professor at UCLA: "Lorena Bobbitt is a criminal, not a feminist heroine. Those feminists who have flocked to her defense have done a disservice, not only to the cause of feminism, but more important activities." feminism, but more impor-tant, to the real victims of bat-tered wives' syndrome — the millions of women who are beaten by their husbands and do not respond by assaults on their organs. They are the their organs. They are the women who deserve sympathy and attention, and support from the criminal justice system—not Lorena Bobbitt."

And how was your week?





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Tales From My Closet

etting ready to move is like diving off a cliff: You hold your breath, pack your gear, head for the unknown, and pray it all works out.

This is the position in which if ited myself here in

which I find myself, here in the first week of February. Girlfriend and I are moving in March, and it's been the main thing on my mind. Of course, some people would wait until the last week of the month to look for a new abode. You can do that in this city through rental services like Community Rentals, pro-

vided you're willing to wait.
Just be sure and keep your fingers crossed.

Being a Taurus, this is an impossibility for me. I need to know where I'll be nesting, so I've already found us a new of I've acreal the place in I've already found us a new pad. It's a cozy little place in Bernal Heights, that happening 'hood where all the dykes are flocking, We'll be hidden away in a bungalow with all the luxuries that you can't find near the Castro. Like a garden, a garage—big enough for two motorcycles, a truck, and a darkroom—and some and a darkroom — and some well-deserved peace and

Sure, I'll be further than five minutes away from most of the things I now hold near

Commentary

and dear. Yes, it may become an effort to leave my new house sometimes, so my social calendar could suffer. But I'll actually be able to hear the birds chirp from my bedroom window. Amazing! We may even get a hummingbird feeder and plant tomatoes out back. Are there hummingbirds in San Francisco?

The worst part of moving

birds in San Francisco?

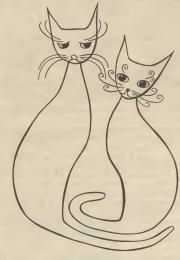
The worst part of moving is not the actual physical task: no, no, no. That may be painful, especially when you've accumulated as much stuff as I have. Ask anyone who's a pack rat, though, and they'll tell you the same sad story: the worst thing about moving is the packing. moving is the packing.

Serious undertaking

Sorting through a lifetime of one's personal belongings of one's personal belongings is a serious, sad undertaking for someone who is unable to throw things away. My roommates think it's a riot that I'm packing already. They say they could pack in two hours, and I believe them. They don't have ten years of newspapers and magazine clippapers and magazine pings crowding the clothes in their closets, or an awesome zine collection, or just about every issue of Out/Look, Out, and Outweek ever published. Not to mention more books than I'll ever read, more clothes than I'll ever wear, and more junk than a decentsized garage sale could hope to rid me of. Help!

It's incredible the kinds of things I have found in only a few days of earnest effort. few days of earnest effort. Love letters from boys in my 9th grade class, birthday cards from my long deceased grandparents, and requests for my zines from men in state prison — the kind that go, "May I offer you, in lieu of payment, a night of having your way with me. Being as you know where to go to get you know where to go to get

the Ladder NAICH 1963 VOLUME 7, NUMBER 6



Cat love: the March 1963 (Volume 7, Number 6) edition of *The Ladder*, published by the Daughters of Bilitis.

laid and I haven't been laid in eight years, I can offer you one hell of a good time. Sound like a deal?"
Side by side with such pro-

Side by side with such proposals lie remnants of a queer archivist's dream: old copies of *The Ladder*, the lesbian magazine published primarily before I was born. Much of its content was quite visionary, as this excerpt from a 1963 editorial by Del Martin shows: "It is said that the homophile organizations must do away with the negative stereotype of the homosexual ... and create a new image ... and create a new image who cannot be distinguished by appearance, but only by his or her choice of love partner. The new image would be a dream or goal for those homosexuals who had not atnomosexuas wito had not at-tained this exalted state. The new image would be, and is, a mockery. The only 'image' that will change the public's attitude would be of flesh and blood. Those who deny their fellows deny them-selves, and the 'image' be-comes a hollow shell without

comes a nonlow snell without substance."

Phew! So much for straight-acting, straight-look-ing! These gals had it togeth-er 30 years ago. Come on all you executives and muscle boys! After all this time, can you believe there are still peo-

ple in the closet? In this same issue there's a

It's incredible the kinds of things I have found in only a few days of earnest effort.

listing for all the gay books published in 1962, most of them long out of print and, unfortunately, forgotten. Anyone out there still got a copy of Perfume and Pain by Kimberley Kemp? How about Trap of Lesbos, Everything But a Husband, or Babes Behind Bars? Lesbian lit may have come a long way since the early 1960s, but they

sure don't name 'em like they

More goodies

Along with such priceless artifacts, my closet yields other goodies awaiting their transfer to their next home. The issue of Alpha Flight where the superhero comes out; issues of a dishy queer rag, Town Talk, from 1960s San Francisco; Rolling Stone

rag, Town Talk, from 1960s
San Francisco; Rolling Stone
issues featuring Madonna and
Sinead O'Connor on their
covers; and every doodle Diane DiMassa's ever scribbled
on a letter to me. Hey, look at
what happened with Andy
Warhol. These could be
worth millions someday!
You may think it's silly for
me to write a whole column
about the contents of my closet. But, as gay people, I figure
what we hold on to may have
more significance than what
straight folk do. I think many
people tend to keep things because we find them validating. All that stuff is a piece of
who we've beeo mand what
we've become. And who
needs validating more than
queers?
So when I look back on
those old issues of The Ladder, I see more than a defunct lesbian mag. Rather.

those old issues of The Ladder, I see more than a defunct lesbian mag. Rather, when I hold this precious publication in my hand, I see where I have come from, and

where I have come from, and it inspires me in my own work as an editor at Deneuve.

Similarly, my copy of Alpha Flight is a mini-milestone for gay rights if only because so many kids read the words of the first ever "out" superhero: "I am gay." And so it goes with just about every scrap of paper I unearth. Somewhere, somehow, all these things seem less sentimentally scrappy than plain

these things seem less sentimentally scrappy than plain old queer history. If we don't preserve it, who will?

Come moving day, I will not be a happy girl. Lugging all these boxes will be hard, but not as hard as deciding what merits disposal. For now, I'll err on the side of caution and bring it all with caution and bring it all with me, once again. At least now it won't cram up my closets.
Our new place has a big basement just waiting to be filled!

California News



Participants in the January 29 demo at the Central California Women's Correctional Facility at Chowchilla protested the lack of medical treatment for women with HIV/AIDS there.

Activists Rally at Chowchilla For Better Prisoner Healthcare

by Judi Parks

Over 100 activists, mostly Over 100 activists, mostly Bay Area and queer, drove three hours to the San Jouquin Valley and circled the main gate of the Central California Women's Facility at Chowchilla the afternoon of Saturday, January 29. They were there, male and female, to let prison officials know that they consider appropriate that they consider appropriate health care for all incarcerat-ed women is a right, not a

ed women is a right, not a luxury.

Carrying signs and chanting, "Toby Wong, you lie/You don't care if prisoners die," activists shouted down Wong, the public information officer who denied the prison provided substandard HIV treatment and pleaded with the crowd to "make recommendacrowd to "make recommenda-tions, instead of confrontation."
Fresno lawyer Catherine

Campbell, who says she has investigated medical inade-quacies in the prison for two years, is making a recommen-dation. She is filing a class ac-tion suit on behalf of over 100

women prisoners she has in-terviewed.

ACT UP prison and AIDS activist Jim Lewis made a rec-ommendation, too. His Prison ommittee wrote to the Honorable Tom Umberg, Chair of the Assembly Select Committee on Prison Operations, to request an independent audit of the California Department of Corrections's annual budget

Department of Corrections's annual budget.
Lewis's committee had hoped to determine why appropriated and allocated tax monies have failed to secure community-standard delivery of health care, and to create an ongoing office of Inspector-General to report to the Legislature and monitor medical

and civil rights issues in the prisons

James Gomez, the Director of the California Department of Corrections, followed with or corrections, followed with a recommendation of his own. He removed Lewis from a position — as the only activist member — on his "AIDS Advisory Committee," one week after the letter was

AIDS Advisory Committee, one week after the letter was written.

Inside the prison, activist and HIV-positive prisoner Joann Walker also has a recommendation, which she wants others to hear: "I raise pure hell around here, because there is no other way to get things done," she said. "I often run into trouble all the time because I will speak up and out. I have no problem fighting the system. I want to put a call out around the world: Help the HIVAIDS Incarcerated women at CCWF."▼



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LAVA

riod, has long been an educa-tor and entertainer in the venue of lesbian safe sex. She is famous — or infamous — for leaving no stone unturned when answering the unan-swerable question "What do lesbians do in bed?" during her workshops and fundrais-ing everts. ing events.

According to Donoho, the

awards "honor leaders who have enhanced the image, em-powerment, or understanding of lesbians within and outside the lesbian community."

This year the Public Ser

vice Award will be presented to Ruth Mahaney for her edu-cational work in developing women's studies programs in California and the western California and the western United States, her tireless activism nationally against racism, sexism, homophobia, and physicalism, and her work with the Gay/Lesbian Historical Society of Northern California

Historical Society of Northern California.
The Community Service Award will honor Lisbeth Tellefsen, co-founder of Ache: A Journal for Lesbians of African Descent and "Ache Presents," which has presented over 40 cultural and educational forums Tellefsen has tional forums. Tellefsen has worked on behalf of lesbians as editor, event producer, ac-tivist, musician, photographer and video artist. The Private Creation

Award goes to independent



The 1994 LAVA [Lean, Angular and Visually Appeal-ing?] Awards will be presen-ted April 2 at the Westin St.

film and video producer, Debra Chasnoff, who won an Academy Award for Best Short Documentary of 1991 for Deadly Deception-General Electric, Nuclear Weapons and our Environment which she wrote, produced, and directed. In accepting her Oscar, Chasnoff "came out" on national television, thanking her life partner Kim Klausner for support. Chasnoff, cofounder and former editor of Out/Look, also created the first Out/Look, also created the first documentary film to explore parenting options for lesbians, Choosing Children, and Acting Our Age, a film about women's experiences growing old.

California activist Deborah L. Johnson-Rolon will be the keynote speaker for the evening. A board member of

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, Johnson-Rolon is also well known for her 1984 civil rights action against Papa Choux, a Los Angeles restaurant, which she and her lover successfully sued when the restaurant re-fused to serve them in its "romantic section" because

fused to serve them in its "romantic section" because they were not heterosexual.

As a community event, the LAVA awards dinner benefits "A Fund of Our Own," the philanthropic arm of BACW that was created in 1989 and is administered by the Horizons Foundation. During 1993, the fund contributed to many important lesbian organizations and worthwhile projects in the Bay Area including Bangle, Battered Women's Alternative, BRAVA! for Women in the Arts, CRUEL Film Project, Hasha, Lesbian Visual Artists, Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services, LYRIC, Pacific Center, Purple Moon Dance Project, Sistah Boom, VOICES, Whiptail Lizard Women's Collective and Women's Cancer Resource Center.

Regional Awards will also

Regional Awards will also be presented to Marian Marti-no, Katherine A. O'Hanlan, no, Katherine A. U naman, Wiggsy Silvertsen and Mar-garet Walker. Tickets for the benefit —

which is expected to sell out early — are \$80.00 each, and can be obtained by calling the BACW office at 495-5393. ▼

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California News

Sacto's Gay Male Body Count: Four Murders in Two Weeks

by Marghe Covino B.A.R. Capitol Correspondent

SACRAMENTO — Since December 22 of 1993, four gay men have been murdered in Sacramento. To all appear-ances the murders were unreances the murders were unre-lated, except that, according to Joanna Cassese, executive director of the Lambda Com-munity Center, "there is a cli-mate, a mindset out there, that makes it okay to kill and maim gay and lesbian people; the police have been terrific on these cases but the televi-sion reporting on these mursion reporting on these mur-ders has been like something

ders has been like something out of the dark ages."

Cassese was referring to the television coverage last Friday, January 28, when KXTV Channel 10 reporter, Dana Howard, reported on the killings, "outed" one of

the victims, and then made remark about gay men and "promiscuity."

On December 22, James Graves, 50, was bludgeoned to death in his bedroom and a to death in his bedroom and a fire was set in the apartment's kitchen to attempt to cover the crime. Police say they are "very close to arresting a sus-pect." Graves's death was reported in the press.

"Probably unrelated"

According to Sacramento police spokesman, Michael Heenan, the murder of the second man, David Vangundy, 40, "was probably unrelated to his being gay." Vangundy has been identified as a drug dealer and, according to Heenan, "was killed during a drug-related break-in at his apartment."

The case of John Kaiitani

The case of John Kajitani,

apartment."

The case of John Kajitani, 49, on January 17, was quite different. Kajitani, a farm equipment salesman, was Japanese, and an extremely closeted, solitary individual unknown to the "out" gay and lesbian community. While investigating his murder, police discovered he was a gay man but respected he was a gay man but respected his privacy.

"I'm not interested in that aspect of his life except as it impacts on his murder," the investigating officer told the Bay Area Reporter, "and it's not my business to 'out' the man to his family." Police quickly arrested a street person, 18-year-old Danny Cisneros, and charged him with Kajitani's murder. Reportedly, the "street-wise" Cisneros is attentive to the content of the content o the "street-wise" Cisneros is at-tempting to use a "homosexual panic" alibi, that he killed his panic and, that he knied his victim after Kajitani made overtures. However, according to one police officer, "we know this wasn't Danny's first time [indulging in gay sex].

Particularly noteworthy Particularly noteworthy was the viciousness of the killing, in that there were wounds inflicted on the body after death. There was little or no reporting of Kajitani's murder at the time of his death. death.

death.

Last week, Leon Kaufman,
70, was found stabbed to
death in his mobile home, apparently two days after he
had been attacked by two assailants. Kaufman, a retired
produce worker from Lucky
supermarkets, was found clad
in his underwear with multiin his underwear with multi-ple stab wounds to the chest. He was the volunteer caretaker at Faces, a gay dance bar in Sacramento, as a kind of

in Sacramento, as a kind of hobby.

Owner Terry Sidie could barely suppress his tears as he told the B.A.R., "Leon was a sweet old guy. He was like a member of the staff, he just wanted to be with people and he was always pleasant and helpful to everybody — he never had a bad word for anyone." Sidie said Kaufman frequently worried about the street kids and the drugs they could get into. "Often he would take them home to make sure they had something to eat and a place to sleep and clean up," Sidie said, "and he'd try to find them jobs. I kept trying to tell him not to be so soft-hearted — that he'd get hurt — but he'd tell me his boys would never hurt him. Now look what's happened."

On Monday, police arrest-

happened."
On Monday, police arrest-

ed a 14-year-old runaway in the Salt Lake City, Utah, home of his mother, where he allegedly fled after the slay-ing. He will be charged with murder. A second suspect, an adult male, is also close to be-ing arrested.

The lurid TV angle

Kaufman's death sparked a series of television "teasers" about his murder and then expanded to the other murders that had taken place. During the report on KXTV Channel 10, Kajitani was "outed" and reporter Dana Howard connected the deaths to "promiscuous behavior."

Howard connected the deaths to "promiscuous behavior."
Cassese is outraged. "This is a classic example of 'blaming the victim," she said. "I'm sure that word 'promiscuous' was used solely because these crimes are gay-related. That's the worst kind of stereotype—the same thing they do with women about rape: 'she was asking for it.' If this was happening at non-gay singles bars the words used would be less judgmental," she said.

"We help one another"

"Not all gay men pick up other men just for sex," Cass-ese continued. "Our commu-nity has a huge heart — we help one another, we em-pathize when we see some of



KXTV reporter Howard.

these kids who have been thrown out of their homes be-cause they're gay, and we try to help and make things bet-ter for them than some of us had it. In other cases, some-times people need help, are lonely want companionship lonely, want companionship and just a cup of coffee and a little conversation — and nobody, nobody, deserves to be killed for those reasons or any other reason."

Lambda board president

Laura Enright has asked for an inquiry into the television report. "As yet, I have not re-ceived any information from the television station which would convince me that I should not file a grievance with the Human Rights Commission," Enright said. "I mission," Enright said. "I can't imagine what this reporter could have been thinking. Certainly, I can see warning people about taking strangers into their homes as a general practice for every. strangers into their homes as a general practice for everyone — but this blame the victim mentality is outrageous. I can't imagine what John Kajitani's aged parents must be going through — all for the sake of a ten-second sound bite." Enright said.

Michael Beardsley, news director for Sacramento's Channel 10, said on January 31 he would review the tape of the newscast and "get back" to the B.A.R. ▼

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Gay Sec'y of State Candidate Miller Gets Mugged in L.A.

by Marghe Covino B.A.R. Capitol Correspondent

LOS ANGELES — "It's all LOS ANGELES — "It's all in a day's work, some bad guy has my wallet and phone but I have my life," Tony Miller, the openly gay candidate for California Secretary of State, told the Bay Area Reporter Tuesday from a meeting place in Beverly Hills.

meeting place in Beverly Hills.

Last Friday, January 21, Miller and his partner were badly shaken as they were confronted by a man with a gun who demanded Miller's wallet and portable phone. The man then appeared to see something behind Miller, said "Oh shit," and fled without robbing Miller's companion.

Miller, as chief deputy se

retary of state, was in Los Angeles Friday for the signing of emergency legislation that would keep criminal defendants behind bars until earthquake-impacted courts and facilities are again functioning. The new law provides that criminal defendants may be held for seven days before arraignment instead of the currently standard 72 hours. Miller was also scheduled to attend the Human Rights Campaign Fund reception on Saturday and to attend a series of business meetings during the first part of the week. "After the signing on Friday, we were near Wilshire Boulevard, so we stopped off to have a bit to eat," Miller said. He appeared to have a philosophical attitude toward the robbery. "The guy approached us on the street on our way to the restaurant—he had a gun. He was a little guy, but with that gun he looked like John Wayne," the six-foot-plus Miller laughed. "The good news is that we're safe. That's all that matters." Ironically, in addition to the \$50 and the credit cards in Miller's wallet, he also lost his concealed weapon permit. "But Peter didn't lose anything except a few years of his mental health." he laughed, "so we were still able to go out to dinner after we made our report to LAPD."

we made our report to LAPD."

Miller is a declared candidate to succeed his boss and mentor, Secretary of State March Fong Eu, who is awaiting a Clinton appointment as ambassador to Micronesia. Eu supports Miller's election bid, but he faces stiff competition from Southern California as Richard Woo, losing contender for mayor of Los Angeles, and Assemblymember Gwen Moore, D-Los Angeles, implicated in the legislature's "Shrimpscam" debacle, are both considering running for the office. Eu's son is also planning to run, but as a Republican, and without his mother's endorsement. Assemblymember Jackie Speier, who was considered a strong contender, dropped out due to the potentially adverse effect and stress that campaigning would have on her pregnancy.



Tony Miller



Dragon slayers

The annual GAPA banquet saw the presentation of two Godzy awards to "those who have contributed the most to the organization over the past year." Jeff Sead and Manny Dacalanio were the winners announced at the January 29 dinner, which featured remarks from Helen Zia, contributing editor at Ms. Magazine.

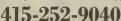


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National News

"What's in a Name?" and Other Weird Happenings at Sister Spirit

by Marghe Covino

Wanda Henson is exhausted. Chronic back pain, stress and unrelenting personal attacks all take their toll at Camp all take their toll at Camp Sister Spirit, but she's managed to keep her sense of humor intact. "We got another threatening letter and we wre finally assigned an F.B.I. agent. On Jan. 20 when we came out here I could barely keep a straight face — his name is 'Agent Lawless,'" Wanda laughed. laughed.

However, Wanda says, the dilemma of Sheriff's Sergeant Larry Dykes is even better. "We've been having a problem with a school bus that stops at our gate and honks the horn and then the kids all open the windows and yell, 'faggot, faggot, faggot, at us,' Wanda said. "As educators we don't consider it to be good policy to encourage chil-dren to become bigots so we reported these incidents to the school board and to the sheriff's department. When the Sergeant came out to take the report, I couldn't resist do-ing a little southern belle stuff, so wide-eyed and breathless I told him, 'Why Sergeant, y'all know we're Sergeant, yall know we're the dykes!' He put his hand up over his name tag like he'd been shot. They've been calling us 'those lesbeens, lesbins,' and other variations for so long I guess they forgot about 'dyke.' It kinda shook him up a little,'' Wanda chuckled.

Wanda reports that during the past week, after a great deal of negotiation, the U.S. Department of Forestry came out to the property to dig fire-lanes and clear underbrush. "We were able to get moved up on the list because of the bomb threats we received," she told the B.A.R. "We've been hearing explosions down by the gate - they're hard enough to knock books off the shelves in the house, and on January 22 our rain-bow flag was stolen. But the local police minimize what we tell them. Even the police report on the dog which was read at the first town meeting. read at the first town meeting read at the first town meeting was falsified when they claimed there were not bullet holes in that poor animal — and there were!"

ATF to the rescue?

The federal Department of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms takes the incidents much more seriously than the local police, and has been assigned to investigate bomb threats and possible criminal trespass on the women's property.

Property.

Wanda is the dark-haired, feisty Henson, and Brenda is the more placid of the two. However, in the face of the destruction of their dream of herings and destinated articles. having an educational retreat for women who are poor, bat-tered, illiterate, and living on a sub-poverty level, Brenda tells the religious right big-ots; You kicked this soap box ots, You kicked this soap box up under my feet — now I'm gonna take a stand on it." The women report that news of a bomb threat to their home was reported anonymously to a local country-western radio station. "Someone called in to alert them that some people were gonna bomb us, and the F.B.I. was notified," they said. "We also filed papers with the "We also filed papers with the ATF invoking the Anti-Klan Act of 1964, which states that people can't have meetings for the unlawful purpose of depriving citizens of their constitutional rights. In addition, government employees like the sheriff and deputies cannot participate in such meetings," the Hensons said. The Hensons fight back in

In the Hensons fight back in little ways, unwilling to be passive victims. Wanda, who is a gadget freak, just got a paint sprayer. "You know, you just can't get good lavenyou just can't get good lavender paint in spray cans, so this is going to work just fine. If they keep messing with us every tree on this place is going to be lavender, believe me. And please," she added, "ask people who can, to send us rainbow flags — any size rainbow flags are okay; I just want to keep putting them up all over the property."

all over the property."

Send flags to: Camp Sister
Spirit, P.O. Box 12, Ovett,
MS 39464.

The Hensons are anxiously awaiting the arrival of wom-en from the Bay Area Coali-tion Against Operation Res-cue (BACOAR) and their counterparts from Sacramen-to, SACOAR. According to at-torney and clinic defender, Alison Gude, the local women Alison Gude, the local women are still trying to raise money for transportation to Mississippi."We're hoping to be able to get down there within two weeks," Gude said, "but we want to have 15 or 20 people going there on a rotating basis. We desperately need small or large donations of money or frequent flyer tickets."

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Killer of Indiana Lesbian Gets Death Penalty After All

United Press International

WASHINGTON -WASHINGTON — The U.S. Supreme Court by a vote of 7-2 has upheld the death sentence of an Indiana man who argued that because a jury did not convict him of "knowingly" killing someone, he should not be executed.

Thomas Schire confessed

ne should not be executed.
Thomas Schiro confessed
to his counselor at an
Evansville, Indiana, halfway
house that he murdered Laura Luebbehusen. Her body
was discovered in her
Evansville home on February
5 1081

5, 1981.

According to court documents, blood covered the walls and the floor of the crime scene. Luebbehusen had been strangled, and a coroner ruled that some of her wounds had been caused ofter death including a hu after death, including a human bite on the thigh.

Schiro later told a county jail inmate he had raped the

woman both before and after killing her. He also told his girlfriend he had gained ac-cess to the house by claiming his car broke down, and had raped Luebbehusen repeatedly after she told him she was

layer Lucobeniuse repeatedly after she told him she was a lesbian.

At the time, part of the legal Indiana definition of murder was to "knowingly or intentionally" kill someone else. Schiro was charged with "knowingly" killing the woman; murder during a rape; and killing her while committing deviate sexual conduct.

The jury filled in a guilty verdict for murder during a rape, but left the other charges blank. Even though the jury recommended against the death penalty, the judge sentenced Schiro to be executed.

executed.

The murderer's execution date had been suspended pending the Supreme Court's decision. ▼

Klan Act Vs. Anti-Gays

Is This 118-Year-Old Law the Answer?

by Marghe Covino

When Wanda and Brenda Henson picked a lawyer to defend their rights at Camp Sister Spirit in Ovett, Mississippi, they selected David Daniels of Biloxi. Little did they know they had hired the real-life embodiment of Atticus Finch of "To Kill A Mockingbird" In defense of his clients, Daniels — a conservative, straight, Republican Christian — has invoked the criminal statute of the Anti-Klan Act of 1875.

"In Section 242," Daniels told the B.A.R., "there is the provision for a \$10,000 fine and ten years in prison. My problem is getting the Justice Department to understand that the Act has no requirement that there first be an action by the state in order for it to go into effect. The Act When Wanda and Brenda

tion by the state in order for it to go into effect. The Act can be invoked by private cit-izens," he said.

Daniels, who says he refus-es to be locked into the belief that homogenality is proper

Daniels, who says he refuses to be locked into the belief that homosexuality is wrong or sinful, says, "The Bible says a lot of things, it can be used to prove almost anything you want to say, but that's just not Christianity." Oddly, while this Mississippi lawyer suddenly finds himself a gay rights attorney, as more and more gays and lesbians, attracted by his ardent advocacy for his clients rights, come to him for help; attorneys for Lambda Legal Defense in New York and Los Angeles are reluctant to talk about the Anti-Klan Act but term the idea "intriguing."

Both Beatrice Dohrn of the Fund's New York office and Jeff Fong of the Los Angeles office seem to think that the Colorado court decision, which found Amendment 2 to

Colorado court decision, which found Amendment 2 to be unconstitutional because it would deny the ordinary rights of citizenship to gays and lesbians, would not be sufficient to apply. For the most part, in the face of eight new state initiatives, gay legal stratery seems to be one of new state initiatives, gay legal strategy seems to be one of "wait and see" until something gets to the U.S. Supreme Court and the issue can be addressed on a federal level. Fong however, was frank in his admission that he is not familiar with the Klan Act and was open to further discussion on the subject.

Meanwhile, when Daniels was interviewed he was clearly excited about the idea of civil remedies to be found in

iy excited about the idea of civil remedies to be found in section 1985 of the Klan Act. "It seems to me that the law is pretty clear," he said, "just because there isn't too much case law to go on doesn't mean you can't proceed. There's nothing to lose and everything to gain. I'm using the criminal section but that's not to say that at some point the civil section wouldn't ap-nly."

ply."
Section 1985 (1) addresses Preventing officer from performing duties; Section 1985 (2) deals with Obstructing jus-(2) deals with Obstructing justice and Intimidating a party, witness, or a juror; and the pertinent Section 1985 (3) deals with Depriving persons of rights or privileges. It reads:
"...[I]n any case of conspiracy set forth in this section, if one or more persons engaged therein do, or cause to be done, any act in furtherance of the object of such conspiration.

of the object of such conspir-

acy, whereby another is injured in his person or property, or deprived of having and exercising any right or privilege of a citizen of the United States, the party so injured or deprived may have an action for the recovery of damages occasioned by such injury or deprivation, against any one



or more of the conspirators."
In addition, Section 1986 clearly sets forth that any person who has knowledge of any of the wrongs conspired to be done as set forth in Sec-tion 1985 and who have the power to prevent or aid in preventing the commission of same and neglects or refuses

to do is also liable to the injured party or parties for all damages caused by that wrongful act.

If the Klan Act, (which

does not mention race or col-or) were applied in Colorado and invoked in Nevada, or) were applied in Colorado and invoked in Nevada, Michigan, Florida, Washington, Idaho, Arizona, Oregon, Nebraska, and other states where anti-gay initiatives have been put forth to deprive gay and lesbian citizens of their civil rights (in some instances, even the right to petition government for relief) it might cause the proponents of the initiatives to think twice about attempting to take away the rights of gay and lesbian citizens.

The reluctance of national gay organizations to seriously

gay organizations to seriously address, investigate, consider, or even talk about this subject or even talk about this subject is both puzzling and frightening. The smart money should go for for funding the straight, conservative Republican Christian guy in Missispipi — he just might give the lesbian and gay community a better shot at survival. ▼



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British Lawmakers Try To Separate the Men from the Boys

LONDON (UPI) - A cross party delegation of British lawmakers launched a camlawmakers launched a campaign Wednesday, January 12, to lower the age of consent for gay men to 16 years of age, an issue likely to divide the government and pose a new threat to Prime Minister John Major's push to reassert traditional values.

Under British law, the age of consent for homosexual

of consent for homosexual men is 21 years old — five years older than for hetero-

years older than for netero-sexuals and lesbians.

The six-member group of lawmakers, who are backed by lobbyists from cultural and business fields, hope to

change the age of consent with an amendment to the government's new Criminal Justice Bill, now in its second reading in Parliament. A vote on the issue is expected to be held within three weeks.

Former Health Minister Edwina Currie fired the first shots in the campaign late Tuesday during the second reading of the crime bill. She quoted 19th century dramatist Oscar Wilde, who said: "You cannot make men moral by law."

Lobbyists for Stonewall, a group seeking equality for les-bian and gay men that is helping orchestrate the political campaign, said Wednesday they expected fierce debate

on the issue and a tough fight.
"We are optimistic, but it
is going to be a very close
race," a Stonewall spokesman

Homosexuality for men

Homosexuality for men over the age of 21 was legalized in Britain in 1967. At the time, 21 was the age at which people could vote. Within a year the voting age was lowered to 18.

The law affecting women allows for consenting sexual intercourse for those aged 16 and over. The discrepancy in the law between men and women dates back to 19th century England when Queen Victoria, backed by Britain's ruling classes, refused to acknowledge that lesbianism existed.

Supporters for a reduction in the age of consent for homosexuals say Britain has the highest age of consent in Eu-

They argue that balancing the age with that of heterosexuals will make it easier for sexuals will make it easier for gay men to accept their sexuality and seek informed advice. The also say it will strengthen individual responsibility, extend individual freedom, and take the criminal law out of the area of personal morality.

sonal morality.

Some government politicians disagree and say any law change will unhinge the government's "back to basics" political program, which em-phasizes traditional values. "When you have young vulnerable 16-year-old boys

vulnerable 16-year-old boys being pressurized by un-scrupulous older men — they need protecting," said Conser-vative Party lawmaker Olga Maitland.

"Teenagers aren't always certain of their own sexualishe told reporters. "If



of the attractions of younger men, was quoted in Britain's age of consent debate: "You cannot make men moral by

they are pressurized to take part in a homosexual act and it's not their nature you can have a very disturbed young person, a very troubled young person."





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Britain's lesbian/gay direct action group OutRage unfurled this protest banner at the State Opening of Parliament

Brit Docs Say: Let 16-Year-Olds Be Gay

by Simona de Logu

LONDON (UPI) - The British Medical Association, expressing concern about HIV transmission among teenage males, announced Thursday, January 13, it was endorsing a campaign to lower the age of homosexual consent to 16 in hopes of improving sexual health counseling for young males.

ing sexual health counseling for young males.

A group of lawmakers launched the campaign Wednesday to lower the age of consent to 16 from the current 21. The age of consent for heterosexuals is currently 16, and lesbians are covered by the same laws because Victorian-era lawmakers refused to believe they existed and wrote no laws to cover them. See accompanying stothem. [See accompanying sto-

"What we are most concerned about is HIV," said Dr. Fleur Fasher, head of the medical association's ethics and science division. "Because of the state of the law, it is difficult for health education, health expertion, the model." health promotion, to be made available [to teenage males]." Medical association doctors

Medical association doctors said the decriminalization of homosexuality between ages 16 and 21 would allow doctors and health authorities to provide more effective health care, health education and counseling for homosexuals in that age group.

in that age group.

The British Medical Asso-

ciation council voted almost unanimously Wednesday night to recommend the gov-ernment lower the age of con-

ernment lower the age of consent to 16.

In taking the action, the council noted that unsafe sexual behavior and HIV infection have both increased among homosexual men after a period of decline. The council noted that recent figures for new HIV transmissions show that younger males are disproportionately affected.

A statement said the council is concerned that the "current criminalization of homosexual activity inhibits effec-

sexual activity inhibits effec-tive health education and health care."

The council based its deci-The council based its decision on a survey by the Board of Science and Education. The survey showed the average age for the first homosexual encounter is 15.7 years. It also showed that homosexual orientation, which is established before puberty, leads to homosexual behavior and

not vice versa.

The council concluded from this that lowering the age of consent to 16 would be unlikely to affect the number of men engaging in homosex-ual activity, either in general or within specific age groups.

There was no convincing medical reason against lowering the age of consent for homosexuals to 16, the council said, but to do so would yield positive health benefits.

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- HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program). This federally funded program gives help to low-income households that fall within 130% of federal poverty
- · MEDICAL BASELINE. For customers with medical needs, PG&E provides additional gas and electricity at the lowest rates.
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This study will recruit participants whose Tcell counts are between 200-500, and who have taken AZT for at least 4 months but no longer than 1 year. No prior ddl or ddC use is allowed. There are also limited spaces for participants who have never taken any antiretroviral drugs.

For more information about this and other studies contact Mark Bowers at (415) 353-6215. HIVCare is a program of Saint Francis Memorial Hospital, 900 Hyde Street, San

National News

Philadelphia

(Continued from page 1)
the case. Les Fagen, of Paul
Weiss Rifkind Wharton &
Garrison, represented Baker & McKenzie in the hearings

"The firm did not fire Bowers because of his condition, it fired him on the mer-its of performance," says Fa-

The judge in the case disagreed. According to testimony, Bowers's performance ny, Bowers's performance was strong during his brief tenure with the firm, and his salary increased by more than 50 percent in his two years with Baker & McKenzie. As late as May, 1986, the firm reviewed Bowers's performance viewed Bowers's performance and chose to retain him. But at the July, 1986, meeting where the partners voted to terminate Bowers's employ-ment, his work performance was never even reviewed, as was standard firm procedure for attorneys facing possible termination. Bowers's immediate supervisor protested the decision to fire him, arguing that he was vital to the firm; that he was vital to the min, he succeeded only in delaying the termination by a few months. By this point, Bow-ers's facial lesions were se-vere.

As the Division of Human Rights Executive Deputy Commissioner Lynne Weikart wrote in the decision: "There Bowers's work performance deteriorated between the May, 1986, evaluation meeting May, 1986, evaluation meeting and July, 1986. However, the record shows that during this period [Bowers's] facial le-sions progressively wors-

The decision turns on a finding by the Division that the firm knew of Bowers's condition at the time it termi-nated him. The evidence does not show that," Fagen argues. "He certainly did not disclose

it.
"There's no debate here "There's no debate here that under the rules, you're not supposed to discriminate against somebody because they have AIDS," Fagen continues. "That's not an issue, and there's no precedent-breaking thing about that."

Felber does not seem surprised by Fagen's remarks. "That position is obviously

"That position is obviously one he has to take, but it's not going to carry the day," says Felber. "They chose in defending this case to say that they never perceived or observed on manifestation of served any manifestation of any illness, and therefore they didn't know he had AIDS, and therefore they didn't discriminate against him. They called almost evnm. They caned almost every partner, associate, and staff person in the firm, in excess of 65 witnesses. They all lock-step testified that they never saw anything wrong with Geoffrey. The problem with that defense is that it did not take into consideration. not take into consideration the objective, non-biased testimony of photographs taken at the time, or of doctors whose notes reflect what he looked

By the time he was dismissed, Bowers had K.S. lesions clearly visible on his face, according to the testimony of his doctors. But Baker & McKenzie's witnesses all testified that they had not no-

ticed.
"When you take the objective, non-biased testimony of what he looked like at the time and juxtapose it on all these witnesses who came in like robots and said 'We never saw anything,'" says Felber, "I think the judge and the com-

missioner said that if you're making this a credibility contest, we find that your position is unbelievable, and since you apparently lied about all of this, you're also lying about the reason for his firing."

An important factor in the case was the nature of Bowers's work environment. Baker & McKenzie maintained that personal lives were not central to the office atmosphere, and that Bowers concealed his ho-mosexuality and his condition from his workmates. But here

from his workmates. But here again, the judge disagreed.

Bowers's attorneys argued that the work environment at Baker & McKenzie was indeed a social one, complete with personal relationships and office gossip. Both Bowers's homosexuality and his AIDS were topics for office rumors, they claimed, and the firm's contention that they had never considered the possibility that Bowers might have AIDS rings false. Bowers's sexual orientation played an important role in the hearings.

"The knowldege of his sex-

'The knowldege of his sex-"The knowledge of his sex-ual orientation gave people a greater ability to perceive what the manifestation of his illness was," says Felber.



The late Geoffrey Bowers, whose award in an AIDS discrimination suit set a record.

Baker & McKenzie is ap-pealing the case to a court of law, arguing that the facts of the case do not support the de-cision. A judge will review the testimony in the Division hear-ing records—some 6,000 pages in three dozen volumes—and determine whether the deci-

determine whether the decision is sustainable.

The appeal may also alter the amount of damages awarded, and Fagen stresses that even if the decision is not overturned, he feels the award hould be lessened. (This dame) should be lessened. "This damage award is completely excessive," he argues. "There's no basis for that kind of award in precedent."

Not so, claims Margarita Rosa, Commissioner for the State of New York Division of

State of New York Division of Human Rights. An award of half a million dollars is, in fact, in line with previous mental anguish awards the Division has meted out.

"In damages there's more room for courts to differ with the agency. But we've had very large compensatory awards sustained in the past. It is our hope that this one will be upheld as well, but that remains to be seen," says Rosa.

By New York state law,

By New York state law, Baker & McKenzie must place the entire settlement - in ex cess of \$600,000 including back pay — in escrow before pro-ceeding with the appeal. The money will earn interest in the interim, and if the award is upheld in court, it will be paid immediately to Bowers's

Rosa says that Bowers's case is not unique, but it was somewhat groundbreaking when it began seven years

"It's not that dramatically new at this point in time," she says. "It may have been when the case was first filed. It was one of the first few that came to trial in our agency, if not

one of the first few that came to trial in our agency, if not the first, that raised this issue very squarely."

Over the years, many more AIDS discrimination suits have been filed with the Division, but Rosa puts a positive sion, but Rosa puts a positive spin on the situation by noting that while lawsuits are still on the rise, large businesses in particular have been changing policies and treating people with HIV more reasonably than they had a few years back. Businesses with the resources seem to be sensitizing their employees and monitortheir employees and monitor-ing their own behavior around

ing their own behavior around AIDS.
"I like to err on the hopeful side," says Rosa. "There has been a growing understanding the standing the standin that one can be subject to ex-tensive liabilities. It behooves employers to invest some resources in educating them-selves and their staffs. We think this kind of discrimination has been eliminated — we're far from that. But at least there are some hopeful signs that eventually the dissigns mar eventually the dis-crimination, irrational conduct associated with fears about AIDS, will diminish signifi-cantly."

Certainly public awareness Certainly public awareness of AIDS as a civil rights issue is climbing with the sudden success of *Philadelphia*. In the film, Tom Hanks is dismissed from a prestigious law firm after he develops K.S. lesions on his face. As in this case, the firm claims ignorance of his condition. The firm also claims poor performance as

of his condition. The firm also claims poor performance as the reason for terminating the employee, despite a lack of evidence to support the claim.

Despite the undeniable similarities of Bowers's case to the story in Philadelphia, Pagen cautions against making easy comparisons.

"This case has nothing to do with the story presented in

This case has nothing to do with the story presented in Philadelphia in terms of what this firm knew, what this firm was doing, and how this firm acted," he insists. "The people who wrote the movie

firm acted," he insists. "The people who wrote the movie may well have been inspired by this story. I don't know. "Everybody feels very strongly about how wrong it is to discriminate against people with this condition," he says. "I don't think that's in dispute or debate. The problem is that each case has to be evaluated on the facts, and you have to avoid becoming influenced by sympathy or Hollywood motion picture simplicity."

This is perhaps the only point on which both sides can agree. Felber too downplays the parallels to the movie.

"At this point we really want to get the message out about AIDS discrimination," he says, "Philadelphia is a Hollywood movie."

The excitement for Felber was not in the Hollywood drama and the media spotlight.

was not in the Hollywood dra-ma and the media spotlight. The thrill was winning this landmark case on behalf of his

landmark case on behalf of his personal friend, and emerging victorious over a well-respected and formidable opponent. "It's also a David and Goliath thing," says Felber. "If you have the truth and you have the facts, sometimes fighting against a giant like that is very satisfying. It's cerfighting against a grain that is very satisfying. It's certainly nerve-racking. But we survived, and though delayed, justice has been rendered.

Bowers Estate Files Suit; Players Respond - Sort Of

hose Story

by Jim Provenzano

As critics debate the mer-its of *Philadelphia*, and as gay and AIDS organizations raise funds with benefit screenings across the country, the estate of Geoffrey Bowers has filed a lawsuit claiming the film is

of deolfrey Bowers has filed a lawsuit claiming the film is based on his life.

On January 31, the firm of Balsam & Felber, attorneys for Bowers's estate and family, filed an action in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York against Hollywood producer Scott Rudin, TriStar Pictures, Inc., and the creators of Philadelphia, maintaining the film was substantially based on information provided by them under the agreement that they would be acknowledged and compensated. They ask for damages of \$10 million.

In a Tuesday, February 1 announcement at the New York offices of Balsam & Felber, the lawyers claimed that is 1009. While Rowers were and

ber, the lawyers claimed that in 1988, while Bowers was su-ing his former employers ing ins former employers [see accompanying article, "A Real Philadelphia Story."], Rudin contacted Balsam & Felber and said he was interested in making a movie about AIDS based upon Bow.

about AIDS based upon Bowers's story. They claim that Rudin agreed to compensate and acknowledge Bowers's estate, family, and attorneys.

According to Lloyd P. Trufelman of Trylon Communications, the public relations firm handling the publicity around this case for Balsam & Felber, after several meetings and telephone conversations in which details of Bowers's tory in the story of the several meetings and telephone conversations in which details of Bowers's tory in the service of t tions in which details of Bow-ers's story were provided, Rudin engaged Ron Nyswan er to write a screenplay based upon Bowers's story. Nyswan-

upon Bowers's story. Nyswaner, who is gay, is credited as the writer of Philadelphia.
Rudin thereafter sold his rights to Bowers's story to Orion Pictures, where it went into development under Executive Vice President Marc Platt. Platt is currently president of TriStar Pictures, which is owned by Sony Pictures Entertainment. In December 1991, TriStar acquired Orion's rights to Bowers's story in bankruptcy court.

After reading articles in 1992 about a movie being made by TriStar about a lawyer fired for having AIDS (then called *Probable Cause*), Balsam & Felber contacted Balsam & Felber contacted Rudin. Rudin acknowledged that the movie was based upon the Bowers story, the rights to which he had sold, and referred them to Platt.

and referred them to riath.
Bowers's attorneys informed Platt of the history of
the relationship between the
plaintiffs, Rudin, Nyswaner
and TriStar, and noted that
the information obtained by
Pudin formed a substantial the information obtained by Rudin formed a substantial basis for the content and structure of the movie According to Trufelman, "Key scenes and dialogue taken from Bowers's story which appeared in *Philadelphia* are documented in detail in the 20-page complaint." Platt re-portedly never responded to Bowers's attorneys, ignored requests for information, and

Bowers's attorneys, ignored requests for information, and avoided any further discussions with them.

Bowers's attorneys say Philadelphia's content is "wholly unauthorized" and that it "constitutes a breach of contract, misappropriation of confidential and proprietary information, a violation of federal law [prohibiting false designation of origin and deceptive trade practices] and unjust enrichment."

According to Trufelman, the long wait was at the decision of Bowers's mother, who only saw the film a few weeks ago, then gave the goahead for the lawsuit. Up to then, the family's concerns had been with the impending results of their lawsuit against

results of their lawsuit against Bowers's former employer.



Philadelphia director Jonathan Demme — in the

Sony, which owns TriStar, denies any wrongdoing, but it also denies even receiving the documents serving them with the lawsuit. As of February 1, Trufelman said the documents had been sent to Sony Pictures he Edden Exprese

Pictures by Federal Express.
Ed Russell, senior vice president of Publicity and Promotion for Los Angelesbased Sony Pictures, denied Balsam & Felber's claims with this press statement: "Al-though we have not been served with this lawsuit, the film *Philadelphia* is not the story of Geoffrey Bowers. *Philadelphia* is a fictional sto-ry which addresses a regrettie. ry which addresses a regretta-ble recurring theme of AIDS ble recurring theme of AIDS discrimination in this country." He said that "TriStar Pictures is very proud of Philadelphia. There is no merit to the lawsuit, and we are confident we will be vindicated in this matter."

The estate of Geoffrey Bowers obviously disagrees, although Trufelman said that

Bowers obviously disagrees, although Trufelman said that he was unsure of the trail of culpability — who knew where the story came from — or even whether that included director Jonathan Demme and star Tom Hanks.

"Maybe Demme was in the dark," he said, but "clearly something was sold to Orion.

something was sold to Orion.

Trufelman said that his clients have specific claims regarding their case. "There are garding their case. "There are certain scenes from the movie that mirror Bowers's story," he said. "Bowers was asked in court to show his KS lesions. The last weekend before Bowers died he had a party. Bowers lived in a loft. There are too many instances which match the Bowers case."

Trufelman stressed that it was not as if the estate merely claimed their story was tak-

ly claimed their story was tak-en from newspaper articles or other public information.

"Someone with linkage to TriStar approached the family. That's the very clear difference."

That linkage is Scott Rudin, a gay producer who brought screenwriter Ron Nyswaner into the picture. Rudin and Nyswaner refused to comment by press time, despite repeated requests by the B.A.R.

spite repeated requests by the B.A.R.

Yet despite the possible believability of the attorneys' claims, up until even last week (see other story), Balsam & Felber denied any connection between the film and the Bowers case.

Trufalman evaluing: "We

Trufelman explains: "We had known all along that it may have something to do with it. If anybody pushed on the linkage, we had to be diplomatic about it." And although the attorneys are asking for ten million dollars, they do not consider the monthey do not consider the mon-ey to be the primary goal. "The family would like to see the film dedicated to the memory of Geoffrey Bowers or at least get some acknowl-edgment," he said.

edgment, he said.

If Philadelphia is making inroads, the attorneys argue, then why can't they acknowledge a real-life case of AIDS discrimination for what it may be, the very source of their very financially success-ful film? Said Trufelman, "One of the brothers said 'They took my brother's sto-

ry."
Will the producers acknowledge that? Or will Tom Hanks, and possibly Nyswaner and Demme, step up to the podium and accept Oscars for a story stolen from a dead man?

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Health News

Researchers May Be Zeroing In on Tuberculosis

New Findings May Be Good News for MAC Sufferers, Too

by Dan Medynski

Researchers have reported identification of the Mycobacterium reported identification of the Mycobacterium tuberculosis (TB) gene responsible for drug resistance to the "front line" anti-TB drug isoniazid (INH). The discovery, published in the January 14th issue of Science magazine, was reported by a team of researchers led by Dr. William Jacobs of Albert Einstein Medical College in New York. The news was greeted warmly by public health officials, who expressed hope that the new discovery will quickly lead to the development of a new generation of INH-like drugs to conquer drug-resistant TB strains and religion public sease.

quer drug-resistant TB strains — and relieve public concern that the TB epidemic cannot be controlled, in the face of strains of TB resistant to more than one drug.

Polymerase hain reaction technology should reduce the time it takes to detect

Under normal circum-stances, 96-98 percent of indi-viduals infected with TB can

be cured by adhering to the standard short-course chemotherapeutic regimen — INH,

rifampin, and pyrazinamide. Cure rates appear to be similar in HIV-seropositive individuals. But the odds of survival decrease for individuals infected with strains of TB re-

sistant to two or more drugs; infection by these strains is lethal in 40-60 percent of all

AIDS-stricken individuals

AIDS-stricken individuals infected by resistant strains of TB are 1.7 times more likely to die — 80 percent vs. 47 percent — than those infected by drug-susceptible organisms, and the time from diagnosis

to death is dramatically short-ened.

In 1991, 333 individuals in



A research scientist examines a slide under

nosed with TB; 20 percent were HIV-positive. In New York, 33 percent of the indi-viduals infected with TB were resistant to at least one drug; 19 percent were found to be resistant to both INH and rifampin.

Isolating the drug targets

Isoniazid was synthesized in 1912, but wasn't used as a chemotherapeutic agent until 40 years later, when it be-came an essential component of a successful anti-TB drug strategy that ended the quar-antining of TB-stricken indi-viduals and the sanatorium era. Ironically, it wasn't until 1992 that microbiologists got an inkling of how this drug

According to the research team at Albert Einstein Med-ical College, INH appears to block the biosynthesis of my-colic acid, a fatty acid that is an essential component of the an essential component of the cell wall of all mycobacteria (A. Banergee and others, Science 263:227-230 [1994]). Researchers hope that by further characterizing the biochemical pathway of mycolic acid biosynthesis, and by pinpointing the precise mechanism by which INH blocks this process, they will "open the door of discovery" to a new generation of INH-like inhibitors.

This discovery follows on the heels of an important observation by Zhang and others (Nature 358:591-593 [1992]) at Hammersmith Hospital in London and Institute Pasteur in Paris: they proved that a

in Paris: they proved that a gene (katG) encoding the enzyme catalase-peroxidase in M. tuberculosis was linked to INH resistance. Researchers now think that catalase either activates or concentrates INH, which is actively "imported" into the cellular compartment of this microorganism.

Quick diagnostic technology

With these discoveries in hand, researchers are now optimistic that strains of tuber-culosis resistant to INH can be quickly identified in the clinic using a new diagnostic tool, the polymerase chain re-action (PCR) technique. By using PCR, scientists can amplify and identify exceedingly small quantities of DNA. Variants of the two genes responsible for INH drug resistance, inhA and katG, can be actify distinguished from the easily distinguished from the

normal gene counter-parts which are sus-ceptible to isoniazid chemotherapy. This breakthrough should reduce the time it takes to detect antibitakes to detect antibi-otic resistance in an infected individual from 3-12 weeks to several hours! Physicians will be able to modify the chemo-therapeutic regimen accordingly.

Incidence of drug resistance in HIV-positives

The incidence of TB drug resistance in HIV-positive individuals infected with TB is significantly higher than in individuals without HIV infection: in one study, 34 percent of the individuals suffering from full-blown AIDS were resistant to one or more anti-TB drugs, as compared to 18 percent of the HIV seropositives were resistant to more were resistant to more

circumstances
96 98 percent
of individuals
infected
with TB can
be cured.
The odds of
strevival
decrease

than one TB drug, as compared to 18 percent of the individuals without HIV infection (T. Freiden and others, New England Journal of Medicine 328:521-526 [1993]).

These observations support the contention that immunity plays a very important role in limiting progression of drug resistant TB in immunocompetent individuals. Conversely, without effective therapeutic regimens to control life-threatening drug resistant TB organisms, more rapid clinical progression to active drug resistant TB infection can be expected in immunocompromised individuals.

The discovery may also prove significant in the development of new drugs against another microorganism — Mycobacterium avium complex (MAC) — which is often lethal to individuals suffering from late stages of the AIDS syndrome.



Clark Husemann, P.A.-C.

PRIMARY CARE HIV/AIDS CARE

Elders Educates Senators about Adolescent Sexuality, Health Needs

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders urged Congress Wednesday, January 26, to include a comprehensive school health education program and school-based health care services in the health care reform plan

they draft.

Testifying before a House Education and Labor subcommittee, Elders said President Clinton's health care reform plan — one of many Congress will consider — would allow schools to provide health care to poor children and adoles-

cents.

Elders, citing congressional statistics, said adolescents make up the most medically underserved age group in the United States. The president's Health Security Act would provide federal assistance to schools or communities with a high retails forcer. ties with a high rate of pover-ty or other risk factors, in-cluding drug abuse, she said. Congress also should pass a health care reform plan pro-

viding comprehensive health care education, she said, not-ing only about half of the nation's ninth grade students, and less than five percent of high school juniors and seniors, receive any health education at school.

"For children and adolescents the leading health probable of the period of the school of the

cents, the leading health prob-lems are from causes that are largely preventable: injuries both violent and unintention



Latina lesbian Supe Susan Leal (left) poses with the popular and controversial surgeon general, Dr. Joycelyn Elders

al — unintended pregnancies, STDs [sexually-transmitted diseases] including AIDS, and substance abuse," she said.

The Education and Labor Committee is one of three House committees (including Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce) with jurisdiction over health care reform.

There are other, non-financial barriers, however, that also affect adolescents, she said, including concerns about confidentiality, culture or ethnic barriers, and general apprehension about discussing health problems — or denial that a problem exists.

that a problem exists.

The former secretary of health for Arkansas, Elders said communities there widely accepted her school-based clinic idea. The difficulty, she said, was agreeing on the kind of services the clinics should provide, including condom distribution for AIDS

and pregnancy prevention.
"We found out that once a "We found out that once a school went through the process of applying for a clinic and got their clinic on site, they could see the important needs the clinic fulfilled for their students," she said.

The president's plan would

The president's plan would authorize \$100 million beginning in fiscal year 1996 to support planning and implementation grants to states and local communities for school-related health services.

lated health services.

Elders put the administration on the defense last year when she suggested the gov-ernment should study the pos-sibility of legalizing drugs as a way to fight crime. Presi-dent Clinton, who said during his presidential campaign he opposed the idea of legalizing drugs, made clear he disagreed with Elders.



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B.A.R. news you can use!

Joycelyn Elders Says What's on Her Mind

by Mark Langford

AUSTIN, Texas (UPI) AUSTIN, Texas (UPI) — Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders said Friday, January 21, the government has no plans to pull television ads encouraging the use of condoms, and she defended federal health care reform proposals that would cover abortions.

Elders said the teaching of exual abstinence alone is not enough to protect young peo-ple from unwanted pregnan-cies, AIDS, and other sexual-ly transmitted diseases.

"We all want our children to be abstinent. We all want to teach our children absti-nence," she said. "But you can't walk in there and give an abstinence lecture. You've got to start early to [teach] children how to feel good about themselves, teaching them how to make decisions, teaching them about alcohol, drugs, and AIDS. It has to be comprehensive. I don't believe you can teach just a sex class."

Appearing at a news conference at the First United Methodist Church, Elders said there was "absolutely no data whatsoever" that shows data whatsoever that shows promiscuity results from teaching young people about condom use. She added that some studies even show that it has led to the postpone-

ment of sexual activity.

Elders also said the ads
are less sensational than

dren can see on national television at almost any time.

"We have no intention of pulling the condom ads," she said. "Unless you have a different kind of TV in Austin than I have in Washington, D.C., there's everything on TV, and those condom ads look like, in fact, they're almost better than Saturday morning comics." morning comics.

Elders, who was greeted by a handful of anti-abortion protesters at the opening of a new Planned Parenthood fa-cility, also defended national

cility, also defended national health care reform proposals that will cover abortions.

"Reproductive health is a part of the president's health care plan," she said.

Elders was asked how she would reprod to respect to

would respond to people who oppose abortion and who may object to paying into a health care system that funds the procedure

'I object to spending \$33 million an hour building bombers that we don't need. I object to all the war and killing," she said. "So there are a lot of things I object to

that we spend our money for.
"We really spend very little on abortion. We spend \$26
billion a year [on welfare]
keeping them poor, ignorant
and slaves at a time when we don't need any more slaves.
So as far as I'm concerned, why should I continue to do that?"

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Obituaries

Scott K. Boin

Sept. 18, 1962-Jan. 21, 1994



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thine'
"It broke our hearts to lose you, but
you don't go alone. For part of us went
with you, the day God called you home."
I love you, Schnookums. You'll
always be with me.
A memorial will be held at Mark and
Scott's home on Feb. 12,1994, from 1 to
4 p.m. For more information please call
Mark at 824-8307.

In lieu of flowers, please send dona-tions in memory of Scott Boin to: American Foundation for AIDS Research, 5900 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90036-5032. Also, please add: notify Mark Manz and address. ▼

David Eiser 1961-1994

After a short battle with AIDS, David passed from this earth on January 21, 1994. A Sacramento native, he moved to San Francisco six years ago. He lov-

to San Francisco six years ago. He low-ed the city and was very happy to spend his last few weeks in SF. David is survived by his mother and father in Sacramento and a few very good friends here in San Francisco. ▼

Richard D. Calmbacher April 14, 1947-Jan. 9, 1994



man, Richard Calmbacher, left a world of friends and lov-

Calmbacher, left a world of friends and loved ones to join those friends he had helped and cared for over the years. Richard touched the lives of many people in many different ways — from his participation in a number of organizations in San Jose including Gay Pride Celebration, Oktoberfest, Mayor's Council, and San Jose Tavern Guild to his legendary bar parties as manager of the Boot Rack and Main Street. As a friendly face behind the bar, he was always there to talk with old friends and make newcomers feel as if they had known him forever. His ability to bring out the best in everyone and make you laugh will always be remembered. His famous lines: "Men are dirt" and "Where's my husband?" will ring in our ears forever.

He was born in Wheeling, West Virginia, and spent time in many different parts of the country. His favorite places that he called home were New Orleans and San Jose. In a way, New Orleans typiffes the person and the spirit that was Richard. Fun-loving, wild, crazy, always open, but full of love. Richard leaves behind his loving and understanding mother, Lillian; his brother, Walt; and many nieces and nephews, as well as his many friends. For all of us left, we will miss you greatly, but being a part of your life and having your memory as a part of ours will make us all a little better off.

At his request, no formal memorial service will be held, but a celebration of Richard's life will be held on Sunday, February 6, at 330 pm. at the 641 Club in San Jose. Donations in his name may be given to the San Jose Gay Pride Celebration at 45 N. 1st St., Box 89, San Jose, CA 95113. ▼

Abel Chavez

1941-1994



Lawrence Payne

Sept. 20, 1952 - Jan. 29, 1994

unique experiences that he shared with a variety of people. His special love of music and dance was the foundation for

many a friendship and bonding within our community. As this disease chipped away at his life, his knowledge of living with AIDS increased. He gladly shared this knowledge with others

We would like to thank the wonderful staff and volunteers at Ralph K. Davies and at Hospice by the Bay for the special kindness given Lawrence. A very special thank you to Lisa, his doctor, and Maurice, his Hospice by the Bay nurse. Their care and concern helped make my brother's departure a carether experience.

We, the family of Lawrence, will celebrate his life with a

Donations may be made in Lawrence's name to Hospice by

National Cemetery with full honors. Rest in peace, Abel. We all miss you, especially Penny. ▼

On Saturday, January 29, 1994, the

man with whom I entered the world with over 41 years ago, my twin, Lawrence, succumbed to AIDS. Lawrence was a very special and uni-

que individual. He is survived by his soulmate and partner in life, Tim Bollinger; by myself, his twin, Lon-nie; and by our family, Joel, Chris,

Ron and Marcus.

Lawrence's life consisted of many

afflicted with this disease

gentler experience

the Bay. V

private remembrance.

Charles Burns Emerson ("Chuck")

Feb. 20, 1950-Jan. 24, 1994

Feb. 20, 1950-Jan. 24, 1994
Born in Ponca City, Oklahoma, on February 20, 1950, and raised in Houston, Texas, Chuck died Monday, January 24, 1994, in his treasured San Francisco home in the company of his beloved sister, Ann Elliot Emerson, and nephews, Will and Charlie McBride, and close friends.
Chuck graduated from The Fountain Valley School in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and received his BA from The University of Redlands He lived in Los Angeles before moving to San Francisco in 1976. He had been a top real estate agent in this city, most notably

Angeles before moving to San Francisco in 1976. He had been a top real estate agent in this city, most notably and happily for the past 10 years with Hartford Properties. He also worked as a writer, publishing travel pieces in various newspapers and magazines. Chuck was generous with his energy and resources both with friends and family, and to various organizations, including Project Open Hand, Big Brothers, Big Sisters and the AIDS Hotline. His great humor, style and generosity will be sorely missed by his family and devoted friends.

There will be a celebration of Chuck's life on Saturday, February 5, at 1:30 p.m. at the San Francisco Zen Center, 300 Page St. Following his wishes, Chuck's family requests that in lieu of flowers, contributions be made in his name to the American Cancer Society of San Francisco, 235 Montgomery St., Suite 320, San Francisco, CA 94104. ▼

Paul Grappe

Aug. 16, 1954-Jan. 15, 1994

brothers.

An admirer of personalities such as Patti Smith, Etta James, Edith Massey, and Janis (Ioplin), he was, like them, one of those rare larger-than-life beings one meets once in a lifetime.

Paul was a professionally trained, highly accomplished string bassist, he performed and recorded with groups from New Orleans to San Francisco, including a stint on Saturday Night Live. His varied talents led to a career in advertising at Macy's and most recently at the Oakland Post.

Paul will be missed by many, including Ben and several employees of the Stud Bar, his favorite place to party, and other friends including Rod.

I will never forget Paul's smile, his laugh, his love and his individuality. I miss him so much. Paul, your spirit will

My intimate co

Jan. 15, 1994
panion of 12 years
passed away ac
cidentally at his
(Dubcoe Triangle)
home. Paul moved to San Francisco in 1976
from Louisana,
where he is survived by his loving mother, Barbara, and 12
sisters and
brothers.

Robert (Bobby) Hawthorn moved from Pittsburgh, Penn., to reside here in 1975. Robert passed away on January 8, 1994, at his home on Noe

always remain with me - someting

love you — Gene. ▼

great joy, other times with great ow. We will always be together. I

Robert (Bobby) Hawthorn

home on Noe Street in the ceaseless care of his niece, Marie, and friends, Em-mett and Linda. In the last

mett and Linda.
In the last
moments of Robert's life, his brothers,
Jesse and William, and their wives came
from the East Coast to be with him. His
nephews, Joey, Robert (his namesake)
and Joshua, brought their love for their
Uncle Butch to his bedside, as well as
their mother, Marie, who Robert helped
raise and who shared many of his thoughts.

Robert leaves many friends in this Robert leaves many friends in this world who will always remember him for his infectious enthusiasm. His career took him from hair salons in the '70s and '80s to the front reception desk at Petit and Martin, until his disability caused him to step aside in 1992. He also volunteered his considerable talents to the Young Turks Theatre group- as a hair designer, in addition to offering his services for the San Francisco AIDS Walk and Dance-aThon.

In accordance with Robert's last wishes, a celebration of his life will take place on Saturday, February 19, at the Unitarian Church at noon.

Marius Houtman

May 9, 1939-Jan. 23, 1994



associated with AIDS. Born in Rotterdam in the Netherlands, Marius lived in Montreal

Marius lived in Montreal for many years before moving to Mexico City. He worked in 1984 moved to the Bay Area. He worked in accounting for Providence Hospital in Oakland and had been working for The Sharper Image before going on disability.

He is survived by his lover of 14 years, Gaetan Rouleau; his parents brothers, Kees, Henk and Gerard living in Holland; John in Montreal; and many dear and loved ire, music and nature. He valued both the simple and the eccentric, but above all, Marius respected and loved life. We will all miss his high degree of integrity, his sense of humor and loved life. We will all miss fish night degree of integrity, his sense of humor and honesty. His talent for decorating was unquestionable, and all of us who knew him know that by now he has already started embellishing his new

home.

Marius, our lives will never be the same without you. My only consolation is that one day I will join you forever. Be at peace, for I will love you always. All donations should be sent to Pro-

ject Open Hand, 2720 17th Street, SF 94110. ▼

Joseph "Mike" Rogers January 7, 1994

special friend Mike died on
January 7, surrounded by his
loving family in
Colorado



Springs, after a mercifully brief battle with the AIDS virus.

AIDS virus.

During Mike's
12 years in the
city, he worked
at the Badlands
bar as a bartender, but is best known as the owner of
SF Floormaster, a floor refinishing
company he ran until his death.
He will be remembered for his quick
wit, dashing good looks, easy smile, and
love of San Francisco. The many
friends he leaves behind will miss this
very special soul.

very special soul.

You made lifespecial in a very special place. God bless and see you in the fun-

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BAY AREA REPORTER

FEBRUARY 3, 1994

Heatherington

Feb. 27, 1955-Jan. 27, 1994

Born in McKeesport, Penn., Denis knew at an early age he wanted to pur-sue his dreams elsewhere.



After receiv-ing his B.A. from Clarion Univering his B.A. from Clarion Univer-sity, he moved to Denver, Colo., where his vast knowledge in sound and light-ing techniques earned him the nickname "Wiz-

nickname "Wizard" from his peers.
Pursuing the nightclub circuit, he worked side by side with such notables as Tina Turner, the Fifth Dimension and Bill Cosby, to name a few.
Denis moved to San Francisco in the early 80s, where he turned a hobby into a new career, working as a chef in many notable San Francisco restaurants over the next 13 wees.

notable San Francisco restaurants over the next 13 years.

In 1984 Denis met the love of his life, Poul-Kevin Beauford, whom he main-tained a friendship with until his death. Survivors include his mother, Anna Mae; three sisters, Dolores, June, and Pat; and one brother, Ray. Denis was preceded in death by his father, Rea. Denis also leaves an extended famil-

Fat; and one broken, March Pat; and one broken, Perceded in death by his father, Rea. Denis also leaves an extended family; Jim and John, Garth, David, and, of course, Poul-Kevin.

Denis will be buried in McKeesport, Penn., next to his beloved grandfather at a later date. For more information contact Bruce Kraus at 861-4076. God speed, dear friend! ▼

Brian Lee Korneke

March 16, 1953-Jan. 24, 1994



in St.
Petersburg,
Florida, Brian
was a longtime
resident of San Francisco. Brian work
ed for Wells Fargo and did a number of
radio plays for a Berkeley radio station.
He read extensively and everyone knew
him as a "narty person". Brian is surhim as a "party person" Brian is sur-vived by his sister, Terry Stefaniak of Aurora, Colorado, and close friend of 13 years, Freddie (Cakes) Tercero of San Francisco. Freddie and another friend, Kevin McCarthy of San Francisco, will keep a promise and see that Brian's ashes are scattered on the Bay. So long, dear friend. We will miss you. ▼

James Calvin Kencht (aka Motorcycle Jimmy) Oct. 8, 1959-Oct. 13, 1993

Bang! That was the sound of Jimmy



passing into the white light, stan-ding on the seat of his K-Z1000 of his K-Z1000 doing 155 mph on the Bay Bridge. Bang, baby, bang! Jimmy left us just after his 34th birthday. It was important to Jim-

my to return to New York to renew family ties and to be with his loved ones. Jimmy was also a jack of all trades. He

could fix anything - cars, motorcycles,

you name it.

He was a topnotch paramedic, as well as a bartender at the Pendulum and the N-Touch. His temper and attitude could snap nails, but his heart was as big as the whole Bay Area and then some. Patrons of the Bear and N-Touch miss him dearly. ▼

Wilson Soares Liberal Oct. 12, 1947-July 1, 1989

Willie was born in Sao Paulo, Brazil In 1973 he moved to New York City. He was a vivacious mar whose enchan whose enchanting presence
captivated one
immediately His
greatest joy was
to be surrounded
by those he loved, and he was
gifted with the
sility to give of himself, making each

person feel they held a special place in his heart. He loved life passionately and struggled courageously to keep his life. In 1988 after several agonizing bouts with AIDS, he moved to San Francisco with his lover Tom, so that Tom could obtain better care for him. When death appeared to be imminent, his mother and sister were called in Sao Paulo, and booked a flight to San Francisco caring for him with Tom until Willie's death.
Willie is survived by his mother

Willie is survived by his mother, Neuza Soares Liberal; a sister, Neuza

Neuza Soares Liberal; a sister, Neuza Liberal Stegun; and a nephew, Fabiano Liberal Stegun; all of Sao Paulo, Brazil. A requiem Mass was offered at the Episcopal Church of St. John the Evangelist in his memory and for his family and friends that mourn. For fur-ther details call Gary at 255-1217.

Philip Lynn Manly Jan. 19, 1951-Jan. 28, 1994

Philip died on Jan. 28 at California
Pacific Hospital
from AIDS-related complica-



Philip - sweet Philip — sweet prince; precious, gentle soul; good son; real friend; generous, always giving more than you took; affec-ting all whose life you touched; y; unconditional in

life you touched; lover of all beauty; unconditional in your love; delightful; playful; tasteful; traveler; artist; always seeing the best in each of us. You have left us, but you will never be forgotten. We love you — Your friends and family.

For more information, call Willy Wilson at (415) 826-8269. Donations can be made to: Proyecto Contra SIDA por Vida (864-7278), 3690-18th St., SF, CA

"Stevie" Young Tae Oh

"Stevie" Young Tae Oh has been taken from us His charm and smile will be with us always. Many will miss you; you are always in our hearts. Goodbye. Mr. Oh is survived by his wife and three-year-old daughter.

Charles "Spot" Prongos Dec. 24, 1951 - Jan. 15, 1994

Dec. 24, 1951 – Jan. 15, 1994

Born on December 24, 1951, Charles
died on January 15, 1994, ready for his
next journey. Charles was creative,
bright, willful and always full of
himself. He was a lover of life, musical
comedy, and crosses. Charles will be
remembered by his four sisters, Diane,
Barbara, Jenny and Patti, and his many
friends. God bless you on your journey,
dear Charles. ▼

Dwight Nelson Tyler July 11, 1952-Jan. 29, 1994



was generous and a humani-tarian. He was always the "life of the party" and loads of fun. He

loads of fun. He cared deeply about children, and each year he organized a Toys for Tots drive. He was tireless in helping friends during adversity. Everybody loved him.

Maria Francine Vega June 5, 1959-Jan. 21, 1994



Vega was born in Hoboken, N.J., on June 5, 1959. In 1982 she moved to San Fran-cisco with her husband and

husband and two children. She was loved by all who knew her and was the life of the party everywhere she went. Maria had many friends at Amelia's and Maud's. She had a special love for children and delighted in her grandchildren, Samantha, Anthony, and Angelica, her nieces, nephews and godchildren.

ephews and godchildren. On Jan. 21, 1994, Maria succumbed

after a courageous battle with AIDS. She is survived by her loving husband, Manuel Ruiz, devoted daughter Francine and husband Jaime; sons, Michael Vega and Michael Ruiz, mother, Bernie; brother Frans and wife Rose; sisters, Karen, Laurie Anne, Wendy and Kitten, nephew Erik and wife Jacqueline; and all the children who loved her so much. Special gratitude to Dr. Basch, Pat Manning (her AIDS Task Force "buddy") and all the nurses from Contra Costa Dept. of Health and Hospice of East County. ▼

Thomas A. Wilcox Feb. 3, 1955-Jan. 7, 1994

Tom died at hom



-Jan. 7, 1994
e in San Francisco
His untimely
death caused by
AIDS is tragic.
He was a loving
man and an exceptionally gifted
singer. Tom was
a native of Ohio.
He received his
bachelor's degree, in piano

gree in piano and voice from Wheaton College. After graduation he spent two years touring Europe as a soloist for the German State Church. His extensive

German State Church. His extensive graduate work was completed at the University of Southern California. In 1980 he was awarded first prize at the Netherlands Shertogenbosch International Singing Competition. He has been a finalist in the Gold Award for Singer (London), the Munich International Singing Competition, Western Regional Metropolitan Opera Auditions, San Francisco Opera Auditions and the Young Concert Artist Audition (NYC). He was the recipient of a Martha Baird Rockefeller Fellowship award.

Tom performed as a lieder, oratorio and operatic singer throughout the United States and Europe.
In 1987 Tom retired as a professional

In 1987 Tom retired as a professional singer. Concurrently he put his love and energy into trying to find a cure for AIDS. He was instrumental in the creation of the Community Research Initiative and PWA Health Group in NYC and the Community Research Alliance. He served as director of HIV Care at St. Prancis Hospital in San Francisco from 1989 to 1992. His genuine love of life and appreciation of those around him will always be remembered by the many people whose lives he touched. For further information call Gary at 255-1217.

Gary E. Wilder Jr. April 11, 1958-Jan. 5, 1994



charm and warmth that he radiated. While he lived

While he lived in Michigan and Florida, he felt most at home in his native California. As a bartender and waiter at Molly Brown's on the Russian River, Gary's personality made him many friends. Gary was also a recognized antique and operating his own antique shops in Clearwater, Fla, and Guerneville. His professional advice was sought by dealers nationwide.

Gary is survived by the two men who

eaters nationwide.
Gary is survived by the two men who loved him most, Eddie Barker and Patrick. His parents and sisters reside in Ludington, Michigan. In his memory, donations to the AIDS Emergency Fund are requested. ▼

Halleck Wagner Dec. 7, 1915-Jan. 16, 1994

Dec. 7, 1915 – Jan. 16, 1994

Hal passed from this life of a heart attack at age 78. He was born in Reno, Nev., during WWI and served his country and history in the Coast Guard during WWII.

Hal loved opera, movies, and gay porno, but above all else, he loved sports, particularly tennis. He was also an actor and director at San Francisco State University. He worked at the old Hittenberger's Co. for many years. The only known next of kin is a cousin in Portland, Ore. He also loved smoking and refused to quit.

Hal wasn't religious in the formal sense — so there will be no memorial service — but he was a kind fellow and the gang at the Lafayette restaurant down in the Tenderloin miss him, especially Kayne and Dave.

You have not been forgotten, Hal Wagner. ▼

Bear - Dov - Satya (Don Klein)

March 25, 1945-Jan. 10, 1994



onest and play ful spirit, passed from this life on

from this life on January 10, due to complications from AIDS, in the loving presence of his life partner of 15 years, Ron Congo.

Born in Chicago, raised in Florida, Bear first came to the Bay Area in 1971. Defining life events were his coming out and travels to India, Israel and the Southwest. He held a dental degree but chose his right livelihood as gardening and landscaping. Besides nature, his passions included living simply,

spiritual growth, and his identity and activism as a gay man, a Jew, a feminist, and on behalf of oppressed peoples and cultures. A freelance writer, he was an original staff member of Boston's Gay Community News. His "children" were his non-sexist edition of The Telling: A Loving Hagadah for Passover and his cherished garden at his Berkeley home. In addition to Ron, Bear is survived by his brother, Michael, his sister, Ellen; two nieces and a nephew, his close friend, Wayne Myers, numerous other loving friends, and "doggie" Sinhad. A memorial celebration will be held on Sunday, February 13, at 1:30 p.m., Berkeley, Hillel, 2736 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, Call (415) 641-4556 for recorded details. ed details

Contributions can be made to RFD, Aquarian Minya, Pele Defense Fund, Hagadah Fund, and Ruti Hafsadi Mid-dle East Peace Fund, c/o Russell Discher, 550 S. Van Ness No. 405, SF 94110. (415) 621-2747. For general infor-mation, call Wayne (510) 548-9201. ▼

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BAY AREA REPORTER FFRRUARY 3, 1994

PAGE 23

Obituaries

Bruce Weinberg March 10, 1942-Jan. 26, 1994



Along with his refined artistic sen-

Along with his refined artistic sensibilities, Bruce had as keen an eye as any for a good-looking man.
Bruce was lovingly attended to and visited by friends too numerous to name, by family members, and by his special guardian, Peggy. A sister, brother, their spouses, three nephews and a niece are family survivors.

A remembrance will be held on Saturday, Pebruary 5, at 1 p.m. in Bruce's home and garden. Please call (510) 482-9412 for information and directions.

World News

Fundies Are Fundies, Wherever You Go:

Zealots Object to Gay Play in Egypt

United Press International

CAIRO — The Egyptian Peoples Assembly (the country's Parliament) is the latest avenue for the ongoing disputes between the county's conservative and liberal factions over contemporary trends, including the liberalization of Egyptians' opinions about homosexuality.

Galal Gharib, an independent Minister of Parliament, submitted a "query" to Minister of Culture Farouk Hosniand, asking him to resign for violating religious values in ministry-sponsored events

in ministry-sponsored events and publications. He also criticized the gov-

ernment sponsored experi-mental theatre festival for fea-turing a play on homosexual-

Gharib asked all parlia-mentary women to leave the chamber in order to be freer in his query that dealt with obscene sentences and picobscene sentences and pictures published by the ministry. After most of the women refused, Gharib accused the minister of encouraging deviation in young people by printing paintings of naked people and obscene poetry in the government-sponsored artistic monthly *Ibdaa*.

This latest flap is just one battle in the ongoing war between the country's conserva-

battle in the ongoing war between the country's conservatives and liberals — or the extremists and secularists as
they call each other.

The liberal camp on the
other side lashed out as well.
Dr. Ghali Shoukry, a literary
critic, wrote in the leftist
weekly Rose Al-Youssef that the query "crystalises a bloody coup against culture and cultured." In response, and cultured." In response, the cultured, intellectuals, and artists are planning a silent march to the Peoples Assembly to object to the query. Nobel Prize laureate Naguib Mahfouz, 83, will lead the march march.
In the meantime, liberals

In the meantime, liberals are collecting signatures on a statement that condemns "intellectual terrorism." They consider Gharib's query part of Muslim militants' campaign to overthrow President Mubarak's secular government to impose a stricter Islamic government. More than 250 people have been killed, 250 people have been killed, and 600 others wounded, in extremist-sponsored terrorist acts against the Egyptian people since March of 1992. ▼

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Thai AID **United Press International**

BANGKOK - Within eight years Thailand will have re-placed African countries at the top of the list of nations having the most carriers of HIV, an AIDS expert has pre-

Virasit Sithitrai, a director Virasit Sithitrai, a director of the Red Cross Aids Project in Thailand, said at present there are between 600,000 and 800,000 HIV cases in Thailand, which has a population of about 57 million

He predicted that by 2002, Thailand will have the most HIV carriers of any country in the world, including those of Africa, where the disease is currently most prevalent.

Virasit told *The Nation* that currently 1.8 percent of Thai housewives are HIV-positive. In from 14 percent in

Thai housewives are HIV-positive, up from 1.4 percent in 1992, and the ratio of female to male patients is two-to-one. "Our campaign will concentrate more on women instead of men," the Red Cross official said.

Thailand's booming sex industry and intravenous drug use have been blamed for the country's soaring AIDS rates, particularly in rural areas, despite ambitious AIDS awareness programs. ▼

Health & Community

ACT UP Golden Gate Meetings are Tuesdays, 7pm. 584B Castro. Discuss treatment issues, possible actions and recommendations. 252-9200.

ACT UP SF Meets every Thursday at 7:30pm in the Women's Building, 3543 18th St., 3rd Fl. 621-0291.

AIDS Family Project Support for relatives, lovers, friends of PWAs & HIVers, Operation Concern. 626-7000.

AIDS Project of Contra Costa Sponsors Hot Sex Workshops, Guys Over 50 discussion groups, and Gay Male HIV-positive Rap Group. For times and locations, call (510) 356-2437.

Adult Children of Alcoholics Gay & lesbian support group meets Wednesdays, 8-9:30pm, at MCC, Room 104, 150 Eureka St. All are welcome.

Bay Area Young Positives Support groups, retreats, fun night, referrals and peer counseling for HIV-positive people under 27. 518 Waller. 487-1616.

Black & White Men Together 826-BWMT

Dignity SF Eucharist every Sun., 5:30pm. Presbyterian Church, 1329 7th Ave. 681-2491.

Ellipse Support Groups Dealing with HIV, Bereavement, and significant other groups meet weekly. Hope Lutheran Church, 42nd Ave. & Kingridge Dr. 572-9702.

Free HIV Tests Counseling, education and anonymous test results provided. Feb. 18, 10pm-12:30am. Upstairs from Blow Buddies, 933 Harrison.

French-Speaking Social Group Meets the first Friday of each month. 861-3155.

Gay Writers/Actors Group forming now to create parodies of commercials for Gay Pride. 982-ALAN.

Gay Youth Awareness Training FOCYS, of Peninsula Family YMCA, offers training for educators on gay youth issues. 349-7969.

HIV Network Personal case management program for people living with HIV & AIDS in Napa County. (707) 224-5496.

HIV Support Workshops New groups forming, led by Neil Kaminsky at Operation Concern. Recently diagnosed workshop Feb. 9. Free. 626-7000.

Impact: A Workshop for Managing HIV Eight Monday evening workshops on varied topics. Meets in Berkeley. (510) 548-9854.

Lambda Youth Group Support group for les/bi/gay & questioning youth up to age 23. Confidential. Weekly meetings, Tuesdays, 7-8:30pm. (510) 887-0566.

Making Better Sex Videos Lisa Ginsberg hosts a workshop for women with cameras. \$20. Feb. 9. 8-10pm. Good Vibrations, 1210 Valencia. 974-8980.

McClintock AIDS Cure Act Working Group Direct action working group to get the bill passed that will establish a Manhattan Project-style research initiative. Meets weekly. 487-9954.

Most Holy Redeemer AIDS Support Group volunteers sought to provide emotional support and help with office duties. 863-1581.

Peninsula Gay Men With HIV/AIDS Emotional support group meets in San Mateo. 573-2587.

PLUS (Positive Living for Us) Weekend workshops in health care, recovery, benefits, safer sex, and many more topics concerning HIV. Feb. 4-6. Free, but limited to 75 people. Volunteers needed. 403-3800.

Safe Sex Video Contest San Francisco AIDS Foundation's 2nd annual showcase of erotic explicit gay men's videos seeks your submission. For guidelines and category listings, write to Safe Sex Video II, SF AIDS Foundation, 1170 Market St., 6th Floor, SF, CA 94102.

SF Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade & Celebration Commitee Board of Directors meet Feb. 7. 7pm. General membership meeting, Feb. 13, 5pm. The Construction Center, 205 13th St at Mission. 864-3733.

SF Center for Living Workshops, classes, counseling, body work, holistic and spiritual services. Volunteers always welcome. 4054 18th St. 252-1666.

Sex, Dating and HIV Monthly discussion group for gay and bisexual men. Drop-in first Friday of each month. Marin AIDS Project, 1660 2nd St at G, San Rafael. 457-2487.

Shanti Project Urgently needs volunteers to assist PWAs. 777-2273.

Veterans With HIV Support and social group at Oakland VA Clinic. (510) 273-7331.

Visiting Nurses and Hospice Volunteers needed to help care for PWAs and others with life-threatening illnesses. Training for new violunteers. 861-6959.

Women's HIV Clinic 12:30-4:30pm every second & fourth Monday. San Mateo County AIDS Program. 573-2385.

Voices of Pride Sexual minority resource center offers support services to queer and questioning youth 23 and under. (510) 530-8529 or (415) 553-4026.

Women Embracing Life (WEL) Support group for women with HIV. The Women's Bldg., 3543 18th St. 668-3765

GLAAD Media Watch

Focus on Riggs

by Al Kielwasser

ilmmaker and culturecritic Marlon Riggs is
the subject of a cover
story in February's San
Francisco Focus magazine. In a
(rare) nine-page interview with
Michael Datcher—a self-identified "recovering homophobe"—
Riggs comments on his life,
work, and politics as an
African-American, gay, and
HV-positive man.
The filmmaker's almost supernatural eloquence pervades

pernatural eloquence pervades this moving tribute. "Silence kills the soul; it diminishes its possibilities to rise and fly and explore," Riggs explains to his astute interviewer. "Silence withers what makes you hu-man. The soul falters. It lives in a cage, and the cage continues to shrink, and it shrinks as the

cage shrinks, until it's nothing."

Focus is the magazine of KQED, Inc. In addition to this welcome cover story, KQED's television operation (Channel 9) will broadcast two of Riggs's films as part of their Black History Month offerings. Affirma-tions airs Feb. 4 at 11:00 p.m., and Color Adjustment airs Feb.

and Color Adjustment airs Feb. 25 at 9:30 p.m.
Comments should be sent to Rick Clogher, Managing Editor, San Francisco Focus, 2601
Mariposa St., S.F., CA 94110-1400, tel. 415-553-2800, fax 415-553-2870

It's about Time

According to the Reuter's news service, media giant Time Warner, Inc. is considering "the creation of a magazine aimed at gay readers." A Time Inc. spokes-person said, "We're exploring the idea and concept at this point. It's at a very prelim-inary, early stage. A lot of work needs to be done."

Sendyour very preliminary, early comments and inquiries to Public Affairs Department, Time Warner Inc., 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10019, tel. 212-484-8000.

Place/Matt

Matt, the continuing gay character on *Melrose Place*, has finally met a potential new love interest. On the Feb. 26 episode, interest. On the Feb. 26 episode, Matt meets a stranger over lunch. They hit it off, flirt a bit, and eventually make plans for a dinner date. Matt, However, soon learns his new friend is something of a mystery man; he won't give Matt his phone number or reveal what he does for a living. By the episode's end, though, it is revealed Matt's date is a closeted Naval officer date is a closeted Naval officer who feels he must keep his sex-ual orientation hidden from his

family and his government.

It'd be great if Matt's new beau could be an open, proud, informed, gay man (rather than a deeply-damaged, culturally-disconnected closet case). Still, the producers are moving Matt's character in the right direction. Besides, everyone's life on Melrose Place is wretchedly complicated, and Matt's is no exception. Compared to the show's amorous heterosexuals however, Matt is still a virtual eunuch. But that could change as this new plot line develops.

as this new piot time develops.
Keep watching.
Send encouraging comments to Darren Starr, Executive Producer, Melrose Place, Spelling Enterprises, 5700 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles CA 90042.

Doug Savant, the actor who plays Matt, has championed the inclusion of gay characters on TV. Savant expressed his hope that, through exposure to Matt's character, straight viewers will "begin to have the requisite compassion and understanding needed to obliterate the insidi needed to obliterate the insidi-ous evil that is homophobia." Letters can be sent to Doug Sa-vant, c/o J. Michael Bloom, 9200 Sunset Blvd., Suite 710, Los An-geles 90069.

Sensitive, but not accurate

In a Nov. 1, 1993, broadcast of the CBS Evening News, cor-respondent Scott Pelley said of Colorado's Amendment 2, "Basically, Amendment 2 says that sically, Amendment 2 says that homosexuals have no special legal rights in Colorado," putting a great deal of emphasis on the word "special." Lesbians and gays across the country informed CBS that Pel-

country informed CBS that relegy's report was inaccurate; Amendment 2 would deny us equal rights, not special rights. In response, CBS Bureau Chief Alan Parcell promised to correct the record and offer his written applicary for the thought. written apology for the thought-less use of right wing rhetoric. Pressed for that long-awaited

apology, however, Parcell had only this to say (in a letter dated Jan. 11, 1994): "While we stand by the accuracy of the story, we also appreciate the sensitivity that some words connote, and will try to be sensitive ourselves to their usage when doing fu-ture stories involving the gay and lesbian community."

Thanks for the sensitivity, Al, but the fact is that the story wasn't factual! Send comments to Alan Parcell, Bureau Manager, CBS News, Two Dallas Communications Complex, 6309 Month O'Congres Sixth 125 Luc. North O'Conner, Suite 125, Irving, Texas 75039, tel. 214-869

Sign of the times

"Hate Can Stop Here — Rescind the Resolution." That's the message carried on a bill-board unveiled February 1 in Cobb County, Georgia. The advertisement is a response to a Cobb County Commission resolution, passed last year, that condemns lesbian and gay citicondemns lesbian and gay citi zens. The Cobb County Board of Commissioners declared that "gay lifestyles" are incompatible with community values and re-stricted arts funding to (heterosexual) projects or groups that promote "family-oriented standards."

The new billboard campaign is part of an on-going effort to bring social justice (and com-mon sense) back to Cobb. The Cobb Citizens Coalition and Concerned Citizens of Cobb are currently raising money to keep the billboard up through March

of this year.

To offer assistance and en-To offer assistance and encouragement, contact the Cobb Citizens Coalition, Billboard Project, P.O. Box 965336, Marietta, GA, 30066, tel. 404-256-8690. You can also lend public support by writing to "Letters to the Editor," Marietta Daily Journal, 580 Fairground St., Marietta, GA, 30061, "Letters to the Editor," Atlanta Constitute Constitute Constitute Constitute Constitute Course of the Cou the Editor," Atlanta Constitu-tion, P.O. Box 4689, Atlanta, GA 30302. To share opinions about the impact of hate legislation on local business revenues, call the Cobb Chamber of Com-merce, 404-980-2000. ▼

We must confront homophobia in order to cure it! To notify the Gay We must control homophobia in order to cure it! to notify the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation of any defamatory media coverage, or to request GLAAD membership information, write to GLAAD/SFBA, 514 Castro Street, Suite B, San Francisco, CA 94114. Call our main office at 415-861-4588; fax, 415-861-4893; South Bay, 408-235-0229; East Bay, 510-273-9146; North Bay, 415-647-3055. ▼

Health News

AAPHR Goes to Atlanta

Friday Meeting with CDC Is Just the Beginning, Apparently

by Dennis Conkin

Leaders of the American Association of Physicians For Human Rights, the San Francisco-based national organization for lesbian, gay, and bisexual physicians and medical students, will meet in Atlanta, Georgia this Friday with the new director of the Centers for Disease Control.

new director of the Centers for Disease Control.

The February 4 meeting, according to attorney Ben Schatz, AAPHR executive director, will be the first between David Satcher, M.D., the newly appointed CDC director, and representatives of the leshian and ray computing. the lesbian and gay communi-

"In the past, we've had to "In the past, we've had to go through the back door and beg for table scraps," Schatz told the Bay Area Reporter. Now, he said, "We're going in through the front door."

The gay and lesbian groups will discuss concerns about gay and lesbian health issues, in addition to AIDS. Among the items on

Among the items on AAPHR has on the agenda

for the one-hour meeting is a request for the CDC to begin compiling sexual orientation statistics in the incidence of diseases that it tracks, in order to have an accurate pic-ture of how many reported cases of heart disease or other illnesses are affecting the les-

hintenses are arrecting the les-bian and gay community. Also, the group intends to discuss the federal agency's failure to track incidence of HIV in the lesbian communi-ty, and the need to do so in the future.

Another key point the group intends to raise is "the level of funding for HIV prevention efforts among gay and bisexual men, including

and bisexual men, including education campaigns that are gay-specific," Schatz said.

In the past, the CDC has been unwilling to target public service and media and outreach prevention campaigns towards gay and bisexual men.

men.
"Actually, the CDC has called for a meeting to discuss that issue on February 10. We are very encouraged that they



AAPHR Executive Director Ben Schatz. (Ph

have called that meeting.

Schatz said.
Schatz said that the group Schatz said that the group "is optimistic" about the change in leadership at the federal agency, and said he thinks there is a real interest in working with AAPHR within the CDC.

"We have every reason to believe they are receptive to our point of view. It's a great opportunity after years of homophobic leadership at the CDC," he said.



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Strained Relationships

by Michael C. Botkin

his past weekend featured "Super Bowl Sunday," statistically the most dangerous day of the year for American wives. Domestic violence peaks during the "Big Game" for specific reasons never clearly spelled out by the pundits and analysts. This is just one of those hints one gets every now and then that marery now and then that marery now and then that mar-riage, that ancient and most respected of institutions, doesn't quite live up to its rosy image. The gay commu-nity, which recently began demanding marriage rights, has frequently been told that it is not worthy or capable of the duties of matrimony. This is doubly insulting when you consider the low standards apparently current among the mainstream community, as reflected in the Super Bowl's lethality

Dry statistics aside, consider the most prominent heteroer the most prominent hetero-sexual relationships you see in the media these days: phi-landering Prince Charles and long-suffering Princess Di; would-be Olympic skater Tonya Harding and her (very recently) ex-husband Jeff Gillooly, who she allegedly tried to have "knocked off" last year before rediscovering. last year before rediscovering her love for him (and finding other outlets for her violent streak); and, of course, John and Lorena Bobbitt, on the cutting edge of marriage con-flict mediation. With promi-nent examples like these, where are today's youth of

whatever sexual orientation going to acquire healthy and positive images of romance, love and marriage?

The new gay male relationships portrayed in the media are, of course, no better. At the top of the list would have to be Michael Jackson's resolution of his "romance" with an underage boy for an out-of-court settlement rumored to be as much as \$50 million. This would be half of Jackson's total worth, which Jackson's total worth, which when you think about it is ap-propriate for a "divorce." When the boy's father initial-ly asked for \$20 million (a request Jackson's lawyers at that time stigmatized as "an extortion attempt"), he was counter-offered a mere \$300,000. In retrospect we can see that Jackson's attempts to haggle merely doubled the

The Catholic Church is also settling out of court in lit-erally dozens of pedophilia cases, although the multi-million dollar payoffs are threat-ening to bankrupt some arch-dioceses. As with Jackson, there is a PR cost as well, since these priests were sup-posed to be celibate and not running up huge tabs to pay for the damage caused by their apparently incessant sex-

ploits.

Given such grim images in the news, those who wish to observe positive images of romance must turn to fiction, and last month many turned to the just released TV vertical. to the just released TV version of Armistead Maupin's Tales of the City.



Shadowy liaisons

Local queers tuned in by the thousand to view the clas-sic tale of San Francisco in the '70s. Bars and other queer environments emptied out a half-hour before show time on half-hour before show time on the three consecutive nights the series screened, as enthu-siastic gays flocked home to watch it. By so encouraging queer cocooning, Tales of the City may have incidentally promoted gay relationships, however, it did surprisingly little to portray them. The story as even main-

Inttle to portray them.

The story, as even mainstream critics couldn't help
but notice, is primarily a heterosexual romance. It follows
the relationship between
Anna Madrigal, eventually revealed to be a transexual,
and Edgar Halcyon, a
wealthy (and married) adver-

tising executive from their initial chance meeting in a park to Edgar's death. Gay and lesbian liaisons are briefly viewed going on around the edges, but they are merely local color garnishing the story's central romance.

One could argue that the Madrigal-Halcyon liaison is rather queer, since Anna wasn't born a woman. If one takes a hard anti-transsexual line and denies that any meaningful transformation re-sults from "gender reassign-ment," then Anna and Edgar ment, then Anna and Eugar are engaging in homosexual relations. But fine points of gender and orientation aside, it is clearly a "heterosexual" romance because the male and female roles are so clear-

The gay and lesbian li-aisons look shadowy in con-trast to this sweet and poignant affair. Mona engages poignant affair. Mona engages in a desultory reconciliation with an old lover; this lesbian affair is subtly hinted to be what the French call a "marriage blanc," a pure or sexless relationship based on affection rather than passion. In any case, it collapses by the end of the book. Mouse, the gay Everyman, has a fling gay Everyman, has a fling with a handsome gynecolo-gist, but this relationship also

Pixilated in the sticks

Despite the surprisingly low queer content, Tales of the City was still pretty obviously the best TV we're going to see for quite a while. I was not surprised to hear that it was the most watched show of the week, at least locally. Was this despite, or rather because of, the oft-repeated warning that "this show may not be suitable for some audiences"? Out of similar concern for the tastes (or rather periodical) of "torpe audiences". prejudices?) of "some audiences," a slightly censored version was screened in some markets. The bowdlerized version "pixilates" Mona's bare breasts, among other things; viewers in San Fran-cisco got to see her nipples while those in Nashville only saw a vague checkerboard pattern, like an anonymous witness's face on a true crime show. Both

versions, showed the first truly passionate gay kiss ever screened during prime time. Pundits also marveled that the public would be exposed to a por-trayal of a gay bathhouse, but it was a very tame, not to mention well-lighted, estab-

lishment that they showed.

The Tales of the City series, six books in all (the TV ries, six books in all (the Iv series is based only on the first), rarely gets around to detailed descriptions of gay relationships. In the first book, Mouse meets and loses Jon, his gynecologist lover. In the second book, they recordly his gynecologist lover. In the second book, they reconcile—but at the very end of the novel, so you don't actually see much of them relating. By the third book, Jon is dead, having died of AIDS between volumes, and although one infers a period of blissful romance it's never actually dies. mance, it's never actually dis-played. In book four Mouse doesn't ever have sex or a date, let alone a boyfriend. In book five he meets the love of his life, and they even get it on before the beau returns to the East Coast at novel's end.
Only in the final volume do we see Mouse settled down and living with a partner.

A friend of mine has sug-

gested that perhaps Maupin, the author, didn't have a boyfriend until after he wrote boyneard distribution and thus was unable to confidently portray gay male relationships. Lack of personal experience didn't inhibit his abilior interest in describing lesbian or heterosexual li-aisons, however. The answer, I think, must lie in the poor media market for gay relationships.

This is why, I suspect, that although there are already several books on Charles and Di, and we can confidently expect books and made-for-TV movies on both the Harding Giloolys and the Bobbitts, there will be no Michael Jackson: The True Story or I Was a Molested Teenage Altar Boy extravaganza on the tar Boy extravaganza on the airwaves anytime soon. Who would sponsor such a show? Harding can promote "the club" and Lorena Bobbitt can market Ginzu knives, but what can Michael Jackson sell

now?

The mainstream media, alas, aims for the lowest common denominator. Gay relationships apparently aren't low or common enough to qualify for prime time quite yet.

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Community

Black Gay

(Continued from page 1)

I curse those whose defini-Tcurse those whose detun-tion of genocide dismisses a people's collective tragedy be-cause their deaths will not be traced to one tragic episode, person, perpetrator, nation, time. I contend that whether the tragedy is spread over the tragedy is spread over centuries or a moment, when it is defined by malicious si-lence and malignant oppression, it is still genocide.

We must take off our blin-

ders: racism, sexism, hetero-sexism and anti-Semitism are oppressions, deliberate and systematic. So I know what to

systematic. So I know what to call it when white-run programs and agencies refused to create programs designed to keep blacks alive.

I know what to call it when a pandemic goes ten years before targeted U.S. government grants provide for black people with AIDS restricted monies that are offered as a band-aid solution to keep a few black people alive.

I know what to call it when white-run AIDS service organizations — inspired by greed, not altruism — then direct only minuscule resources

greed, not altruism — then di-rect only minuscule resources targeting a few black people with AIDS so they can lay claim, where none actually exists, to equality and service to all. I am neither deaf, dumb, nor mute. I know what to call it. Genocide.

Heterosexism is an oppression not defined to one particular era in time. Forever will it exist amongst — yes I will name them! — black heterosexists who would rather see black faggots and drag queens not be part of their communi-ty's life. Black gays, bisexuals and transsexuals must label their holocaust as such. not be silent about th amongst our own who did not

amongst our own who did not mind that we died.

Too many black preachers and their minions, politicians and civilians, refuse to embrace the "sexual deviants."

Some will acknowledge us in private, then in public refuse to embrace those who are gay. In the limelight they will not love us or hold us or not love us or hold us or shout out our names — though amidst the glow of the night-light, when hormones enrage, some, in hypocrisy, whisper

our names.

Because of their silence, black "leaders" set examples and teach their minions to be mute. Their deliberate con-spiratorial silence has sealed their named "sexual deviants" in coffins and caskets and urns, and left others unable to speak to the gay ones with compassionate words or voice love unconditionally to the gay ones with AIDS. I know what to call it when, with black pride as a

when, with olack pitule as a rally cry, my community attempts to murder black gay culture. They try to erase from history our love and dedication to the race. Already dead to our history are the contributions of my broththe contributions of my brothers and transgendered sisters. Yes, we meet Webster's criteria for the term genocide.

How sadly ironic that as black people collectively we struggle for liberation, yet

will not in unison claim that

freedom too must come for those who call themselves black transgendered, bisexual or gay. Condemned to self-hatred, many black homo-/bi-/ trans-sexual men find they can imagine only dying — not living — with AIDS.

There is evidence that

There is evidence that ick "leaders," with inten-

tional malice, have intimated we be stoned to death. There is evidence that others have said they can prove we don't said they can prove we don't exist — that homosexuality is a white racist plot to steal "our men" from our "wom-en." Well, let me be clear on this; this black gay man belongs to no one.

longs to no one.

Already too many black "leaders" are comfortable with a black gay historical death. Already many have cleansed us from history. Already many have declared in public and private that AIDS would not have been a bad disease if it stayed (though it never existed solely) amongst gay men, thereby eliminating from the community the black faggots who dare claim themselves black. They left us to die. Refused to name us from a place of love. They denied us a place in black pride, then used racial pride as the heterosexist rallying cry to justify their refusal to claim us as their own.

us as their own.

I no longer believe I must justify to others my existence. I have a right to be here. To-day, I choose to work with those people not afraid to tiose people not arraid to claim me their own. I live amongst black gay-/bi-/transsexual brothers and sisters (we do exist by the way) who together declare We are as good as anyone.

From this day forward

may we be black gay, bisexu-al, and transgendered men, who dare fellowship with les-bians sisters and who, togeth-er, guide our own future. We claim ourselves as our own We assert our collective right

Notwithstanding the above, I can't place blame on others without looking at myself. Internalized in each of us are poisoned seeds of self-oppression, sown sometimes by impressing and other times by ignorance and other times by design. Planted within each woman and man, oppressions of race, gender, and sexual-orientation reap boun-tiful harvest of dead bodies.

tiful harvest of dead bodies. Dead black gav bodies. Dead black bisexual bodies. Dead black transgendered bodies. Oppressions have been planted deep within each of the communities we claim as our own, so we each must claim as part of our struggle the end of sexism, racism, anti-Semitism, and heterosexanti-Semitism, and heterosex-ism. If not, our AIDS-induced phobias, lurking within, will be the death of us all. If not, our deep-seeded fear of "the other" will be fertile enough to let grow a malignant group silence that will deliver to the heavens many more souls of black folk before their time.

I turn inward and reveal my early denial. Once, not long ago, I refused to count the funerals, the memorials, the urns, the caskets, the tombstones. I can connect myself to the death-riddled history of my brothers and sisters. I do not ask of anyone what I will not ask of myself: What role did my silence play in the genocide of my people? Surely, without redemption, this question will haunt me the rest of my life.

I lay claim to redemption. I vow that having learned from past silence, the voice of my future will be strong and uncompromising. I will not silence myself again. In time, I will make peace with my past. Forever may I be strong in the fight to keep my broth-

ers and sisters alive.

In my heart, soul and mind, my reason for commit-

Classifieds

LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 182844

The following person is doing business as URBAN REMOVAL, 75 Gough St. #8, San Francisco, CA 94102: KENNETH J. WEINER, 75 Gough St. #8, San Francisco, CA 94102: KENNETH J. WEINER, 75 Gough St. #8, San Francisco, CA 94102: Weiness under the above fictious business name on the date January 24, 1994. This business KENNETH J. WEINER.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on December 24, 1993.

JANUARY 27, FEBRUARY 3, 10, 17, 1994. L-182844

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 182793

The following person is doing business as PIANOS TO RENT, 2075 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94114: BEVERLY J. DUSON, 14869 Midland Rd., San Lean-dro, CA 94578.

dro, CA 94578.

Registrant commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date January 21, 1994. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed BEVERLY J. 01.50N.

This statement was filed with the Country Clerk of the City and Country of San Francisco, CA on January 21, 1994.

JANUARY 27, FEBRUARY 3, 10, 17, 1994. L-182793

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 182751

The following person is doing business as PYRAMID HOME HEALTH CARE, 5285 Diamond Heights Blvd #307, San Fran-cisco, CA 94131; LARRY JOSEPH KNEE, 5285 Diamond Heights Blvd #307, San Francisco, CA 94131; MATTHEW Heights Blvd #307, San Francisco, CA 94131, Republic Matter State 1941, San Francisco, CA 94131, Republic Matter 94131, San Francisco, CA 94131, Republic Matter 94131, Republic 94131, Republic

94/31.
Registrant commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date January 18, 1994. This business is conducted by a general partnership. Signed LARRY JOSEPH KNE.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on January 20, 1994.

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Francisco, CA 94114.
Registrant commenced business under the above fictitious business name or the date September 1, 1988. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed DAVID FREMLAND.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on December 30, 1993.

January 21, 28, 31, February 3, 1994 L-182201

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 182843

The following person is doing business as THEN AND NOW, 1700 Anza St. #6, San Francisco, CA 94118: RUDI P. TERUEL, 1700 Anza St. #6, St., San Francisco, CA 94118.

94118.
Registrant commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date January 24, 1994. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed RUDI P. TERUEL.

RUDI P. TERUEL.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of Sar Francisco, CA on January 24, 1994.

JANUARY 27, FEBRUARY 3, 10, 17, 1994, L-182843

ment is clear: I won't forget the members of my commu-nal family or multisexual black community or multicultural gay community who were murdered by AIDS. I remember James Toms, a black/Native American gay

black/Native American gay man and friend. He died of AIDS less than two years ago, though he had a right still to be here. His spirit I miss. His love I miss. His political and personal strength I miss With hindsight I realize how his multicultural vision, borne of his dual cultural heritage, has become my own vision.



remember Craig Harris With humor he spoke of be-With humor he spoke of being trilingual — fluent in "afro", "euro," and "homo". He died in 1992, though he had a right still to be here. Despite a public gay identity, Craig knew (in the biblical sense of the word) both women and men. On some days, so he will not be disappeared, I try to capture his wisdom in I try to capture his wisdom in the wind, for Craig testified and signified and tried like no other. With foresight, he de-clared that men must be fem-inists. He reminded us that whatever longevity we claim for our brothers and sisters with AIDS did not come with out our lesbian sisters, who with us organized and cared

and pounded the streets.

I remember Arielle Makela. A black transsexual, she had a right still to be here. With memories of Arielle come this comforting refrain: come this comforting retrain: she is with the great transgendered God she so loved. I testify of Arielle's brilliance, of her strength and her stature. Arielle's "do-right-by-me" creed was one of her gifts to me. And because Arielle allowed me into her world, she gave me an even greater gift: the insight that it was not the toughest lot in the world to be a black gay man in America You see, Arielle, a black wom

an looking for peace, love, and protection, was too often shunned by a black gay-male world that refused to claim

transgenders as their own.

Because of AIDS, my Uncle
Vincent no longer lives to sing
his love for The Temptations. his love for The Temptations. Some days I see clearly the sadness in Vincent, Jr.'s soft brown eyes, looking to me for a fatherly guidance and love I cannot always provide. It hurts me to tell him I can't fill in his heart the space where his daddy was meant to be. But I can tell his story; I can claim him as my own and demand we all come to see Vincent. Ir.'s right.

as my own and demand we all come to see Vincent, Jr's right to be here with daddy, though daddy no longer survives.

Because of AIDS, my Aunt Jenny no longer smiles to brighten the lives of her children I force myself to remain. dren. I force myself to remember her funeral, for I refuse to wipe from my mind the tears in the eyes of Jamel, Jameak, and Janazer left alone to survive. My kisses cannot replace vive. My kisses cannot replace the maternal love forsaken for the rest of their lives. But I can tell their story; I can claim them as my own and assert their right to be here with mommy, though mommy no longer survives.

My own mother's brother and sister are dead; she shared injection drugs with each, so

injection drugs with each, so mommy dares not be tested for HIV. I understand her refusal. At night mommy some times dreams of her brother

times dreams of her brother and sister, sees tombstones, and imagines her body buried.

And me? I dare not claim as my own the death of my mother, nor imagine a day I no longer breathe in her laughter, humor, and wit. I never thought I'd mourn the trials and tribulations that remind tribulations that remind

me of mommy, but I will.

As a black gay man I have cursed the God of my baptism. I have forsaken religion. I do believe though in the spirits of yesterday, so I pray to the col-lective "higher power" of my black ancestors. I believe they black alleestors. I believe they hide in a place where time and genocide do not reside. I pray my ancestors remember this earthly black nation aspires to survive. I pray they make real the dream Dr. King alone

when I summon my ancestors this is my prayer: I want not another of my friends to be listed amongst the disappeared, the forgotten. No more

invisible women and men. No more AIDS-infected black souls to join them in what some label heaven.

With no belief in God or re With no belief in God or re-ligion, I still pray, because on some days the genocide is as real as the generation that someday will no longer exist between my grandmother and each of her grandchildren. For grandma Pearline, destiny de-clares there will be neither daughter nor son to help her grandchildren survive.

I pray because in each prayer, subconscious and im-plicit, lies a belief of which I am not always aware: one day black people's struggle will be over. Our victory will be won.

I pray because only then can I envision Dr. King's promise.

And since my prayer, not grounded in faith, is also a dream, I give myself permission to believe that Craig, James, Arielle, Vincent, Jenny, and mommy again someday will share with me their joy and their laughter.

Tony Glover is Director of the Brothers Network, a San Francisco-based HIV/AIDS service agency founded, direct-ed, and staffed by black/ African-American and Carib-bean gay, bisexual, and trans-gendered men. An activist since 1983, he led the student anti-apartheid protests at since 1983, he led the student anti-apartheid protests at Columbia University in 1985, investigated cases of AIDS-related discrimination at New York City's Human Rights Commission, and founded Men of All Colors Together New York's federally funded HIV/AIDS support services New York's federally funded HIVIAIDS support services project in New York City. His essays have appeared in Sojourner: Black Gay Voices in the Age of AIDS, The City Sun, and Gay Community News. He is currently editing Celebrating Diversity, a work-in-progress featuring poems, essays, narratives, and photography by 35 lesbians, gay men, bisexual men, and two-spirited people from various cultures in the Americas, the Pacific Islands, the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and southern Southeast Asia, and southern

BAY AREA REPORTER

FEBRUARY 3, 1994 PAGE 27



LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 182985

The following person is doing business as QUAKE PROOF INC. 170 Divisadero St., San Francisco, CA 94117: QUAKE PROOF, INC. CALIFORNIA, 170 Divisadero St., San Francisco, CA 94117: St., San Francisco, CA 94117: Surgistant commenced business under the above I (cititous business name on the property of th

the data by a corporation. Significant of the Coun-this statement was filed with the Coun-ty Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on January 28, 1994.

February 3, 10, 17, 24, 1994. L-182985

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 952480

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the matter of the application of A MINOR BY PARENT RONICA BENJAMIN TELEMA OKOBI, JR., for change of name. The application of ViCTAVIA LILLION GEORGES for change of name, having been filled in or change of name, having been filled in PARENT NUMBER OF A STATE OF THE tion, printed in said county, at least once a week for four consecutive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated this 20th day of January, 1994.

February 3, 10, 17, 24, 1994. L-952480

City and County of San Francisco

Department of Social Services

Solicitation of Interest (SOI)

SOI-DSS-086: Provide a Childcare Delivery System to 700

parents enrolled in educational/training programs and 300 foster parents. Services include: arrange & refer clients for childcare, maintain pool of providers and conduct site visits to distribute

health & safety info., pay providers for the service. SOI issue date 1/28/94. Due date is 3/2/94, not later than 2:00 p.m. Contract term 7/1/94 - 6/30/95. Contact: Walter Maciak, SFDSS, OCC, P.O. Box 7988, SF 94120. Tel. (415) 557-5581

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 957549

957549

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the matter of the application of ANTONIO DURAND JACOBS for change of name. The application of ANTONIO DURAND JACOBS for change of name of the superior of ANTONIO DURAND JACOBS has filed an application proposing that HIS name be changed to ANTONIO DURAND JACOBS has filed an application proposing that HIS name be changed to ANTONIO DURAND JACOBS has filed an application proposing that HIS name be changed to ANTONIO DURAND JACOBS has filed an application proposing that HIS name be changed to ANTONIO DURAND JACOBS HAS INCOME. THE ANTONIO DURAND JACOBS HAS INCOME. THE ANTONIO DURAND JACOBS HAS INCOME. THE ANTONIO DURAND JACOBS HAS ANTONIO DURAND

January 13, 20, 27, February 3, 1994. L-957549

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 182715

The following person is doing business as CAFFEMONDA, 2027 Polk St., San Francisco, CA 94109: FRANK MONDA, 141.

Registrant commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date January 1, 1994. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed FRANK MONDA.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on January 19, 1994.

JANUARY 27, FEBRUARY 3, 10, 17, 1994. L-182715

ROOMMATES

SHARE LOFT Space available in old brick firehouse south of Lake Merritt in Oaklandexposed bircks & beams, sleeping loft, sky light & lots of windows in you room—common area is 2,000 sq. ft. open room— full kitchen with d/w, 3 gas ovens and 8 burners washer & dryer—weekly maid—indoor parking share with 2 gwm, 4 cats and 1 puppy—\$450 mo. + utils—avail immed— 510/839-6181

COUNTRY LIVING

Share nice home, 8 miles from Santa Rosa — ½ rent + ½ util. Call (707) 579-8580

Share Home \$425 + Dep. 584-8484

Share Liberty Street Flat 3 BDRM, 2 Bath, Lg. Liv. Rm. Mod. Kit, Lndry, Sun Dk Bkyd View, close J-Church + BART \$500 1st & last + Util. Smoker OK. Call 285-1773 E04

GWM 2 Share Upper Market Incredible Large 2 BD, 2 Ba Pano-View, F/P, deck, w/ responsible N/S, No Pets. \$600 + ½ util. Jim 487-9822

Lg \$375 or Sm \$325 Rooms Must See - Grant - 922-7781

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Clean/Sober Share Home with 1 GM, Smoke

OK. Quiet, sunny BDRM, new kit/bath, W/D, D/W, Hrdwd Carpet, Fully Furn. \$450+ ½ utils 285-1494 9am-8pm 105

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M/F Wanted to Share 2 BR w/ Gay male/fpl/deck/new pnt Strt Pking, Safe/quiet \$460/mo. Chris 864-7177 ASAP

HAYWARD AREA

HAYWARD AREA HIV+, WM, 50 Seeks Resp M. to share furn home. Own room, bath, TV, VCR. Close to BART. No drugs. Call or Lve mess. Jim 510-489-8354 Avail now. \$450/mo. Incs utilities. DIx Living

\$410 Sunny Cole St. Corner Flat w/Turret Window, Deco

\$475 GWM large mod. apt. deck, vu, own ½ BA, F/P, D/W utils inc. No pets. Bob 648-8493

Castro \$675 elegant share. All amenities. 1st/lst \$300 dep. Avl. soon. 864-1909 E05

Share Redwod City Home Fnce Yd, Garage, Own BA \$485 Carport \$450. Greg 364-4184

\$485 + ½ Util Share with GWM & 2 Cats, Sunny Vict. flat in Castro. N/S & N/D. Must be clean, mature, & quiet. 864-5285 Lv. Mssg.cos

Share Rental - Large 4 BDRM

House, lots of room, Large backyard. Call Larry 570-6778 or 572-2426

Foster City San Mateo GM seeks NS to share home. \$375. 341-7159

Furn. GM/GW. NS 751-0141 E05 Sunny Potrero Hill Room Avail in Beaut Home-Many Xtras \$375 Month. 550-6991

Studio, Clean, Quiet, Secure Bldg. Gabriel. 474-1083 607

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3-BDRM, 2-BATH FLAT \$895 HAYES VALLEY Ground Floor, Corner Ivy St. & Buchanan. Neighborhood is bad news, but just 1½ blks. from nice part of Hayes St. Bldg. Victorian Ext. Modern inside. Move-in Total \$2237.00 Cat, Quiet Dog OK 567-4712

Lg. One Bedrm Apt. 673 Oak \$650 922-4916 606

Oakland, Laney College Area 1-Bed, Deck, Ph: (415) 388-4369

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 182092

The following person is doing business as ALGEN, 993 Duncan St., San Francisco, CA 94313: MICHAEL ANDREW HOBAN, 993 Duncan St., San Francisco, CA 94131: MICHAEL ANDREW HOBAN, 994 Duncan St., San Francisco, CA 94131: Registrant commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date January 1, 1994. This business MICHAEL ANDREW HOBAN. Signed MICHAEL ANDREW HOBAN. This statement was filed with the Country Clerk of the City and Country of San Francisco, CA on December 18, 1993.

JANUARY 27, FEBRUARY 3, 10, 17, 1994. L-182092

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 957629

957629

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the HENG LIANG MINE OF THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the HENG LIANG IMPORTANCE OF THE STATE OF THE ST

January 13, 20, 27, February 3, 1994. L-957629

PROPERTY FOR SALE

LAKE MERRITT VIEW Convenient Location Gracious Entertaining and facious Entertaining and family living Rm w/
FP, Formal DR, Hardwood FIr, 3+BR 2 Bath, Lg Landscaped garden w/pond, 2 Dks, Garage, laundry. Offered at \$255k.
Open House Feb. 6. 1-4 Agnt. 428 Wayne Ave. Oakland (510) 569-8010 Judy

Mobile Homes For Sale View over 500 homes in ''changing community'' 10 mins. S.F. 10% Dn, Big selection. Great tax shelter. Realty
USA 878-1000

Lgr Stu Condo 2 W/ Closets Grt. Loc, 97k. No Agents. Nr. Pub Trans. (415) 255-4816 E08

EATTLE

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hood. \$235,000 SUNNY ARMSTRONG VALLEY - Like new, 2 bed, Attch. garage, bonus bldg., seasonal creek. ONLY \$159,000 TURN OF THE CENTURY - Victorian style home with additional income. Main structure is currently being used as a hair salon. ONLY \$135,000

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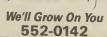
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ENTERTAINMENT

Me'Shell NdegeOcello on Music, Madonna and Lesbian Chic

Upwardly Mobile

e'Shell Ndege Ocello is not the easiest person in the world to interdeasiest person in the world to interview. Unlike most recording artists, she's somewhat shy and reticent to toot her own horn. But she'd better get used to the spotlight because she's made an auspicious splash with her debut album, Plantation Lullabies (Maverick Records).

"Listen to the record," she said in an interview from her home in New York. "The music is much more interesting than me."

than me."

But Me'Shell sells herself short. In a field where artists wait years to be discovered,

surname was Johnson, but she chose NdegeOcello, which means "free like a bird" in Swahili.

Me'Shell has made her recording debut at the young and enviable age of 24. And in a business where creativity is often considered an indus-try risk, Me'Shell has broken new musical ground with a gritty hybrid of jazz, funk and

hip-hop. Add to that the fact that she's an outspoken black lesbian and you have a legend

lesbian and you have a legend in the making.

Her sudden success is no great surprise. She grew up in a musical family: her father was a U.S. Army band leader, and her older brother played with go-go bands for years. Her family encouraged her to pursue music early in life, but, said Me'Shell, she resisted it for years. Hutil she got ed it for years, until she got into high school and found that she could no longer resist

that she could no longer resist her muse.

"I didn't want anything to do with music," she recalls.
"But one day, a friend of my brother's left his bass at the house and I just started fid-dling around. It was as natu-ral as breathing. I fell in love with it"

ral as breathing. I fell in love with it."

After high school, Me'Shell studied in Howard University's jazz program and began occasional work with local groups in her native Washington D.C. Her collaboration with go-go band Rare Essence proved fruitful, as it led to her first solo projects, which gained instant critical-recognition: in 1990 she took home three Wammies (D.C.'s local music awards) for her solo work. That's when things really started to take off.

Me'Shell moved to New York and began to expand

Me Shell moved to New York and began to expand her musical talents. She be-gan playing all her own in-struments and doing her own vocals. "I got tired of asking people to come and they wouldn't show up," she protested. "That's why I play everything"

everything."
At first she started playing



Me'Shell Ndege Ocello

small clubs around New York. After positive reviews hit print she began searching for a record label. Tommy Boy found her, but faced with little money and too many artistic restrictions, the relationship didn't last long. She turned down the one offer they made. Disillusioned and burned out, Me'Shell was

burned out, Me'Shell was ready to give up on her young career.

But true to form, she took control of her life and turned things around. She started by changing her last name. Her family's "government surname" was Johnson, but she chose NdegeOcello, which means "free like a bird" in Swahili.

"I have respect for my family, she explained, "but as a

person, I think you travel through life, and sometimes you change, and there are some things associated with my old name that I'd like to

Madonna

With a new name and outlook, things finally took off,
and just in the nick of time.
"Last year, I was ready to quit
music totally and become a
barber. But just when I got
into barber school, all this
stuff started happening."

The "stuff" she's talking
about amounted to a deal bigger than she'd ever imagined:
an offer to work with Madonna. Me'Shell became the first

an offer to work with Madonna. Me'Shell became the first woman to sign on the diva's own Maverick label. It happened so quickly that Me'Shell didn't have the time to pinch herself.

"I did a gig on Thursday in New York," with a Maverick agent in the audience, and Monday morning I flew out to LA to meet Madonna," she explained. "She said she'd like to meet me and that she explained. "She said she'd like to meet me and that she liked my music, so I went out there and we ate rice cakes and gum balls and talked. I was nervous, overwhelmed. It was like 'Dang. This is fucking Madonnal' But she's really a nice person. She's my boss, you know."

Madonna seemed to appre-

Madonna seemed to appreciate Me'Shell's no-nonsense attitude about being openly lesbian. "With Madonna, I don't think she cared. She heard the music before she

heard the music before she even met me, and signed me up before she even knew, so I don't think that had any impact," said Me'Shell.

But she has gotten plenty of flak from others about her gayness. "This is a very macho system. Musicians make their little comments." she their little comments," she said. "But I see it as their ignorance. It has nothing to do with me.

Other performers are not so bold. Many closeted musicians worry about losing the support of their labels and lis-

Body **Politics**

by Noreen C. Barnes

hat is the impact of the culture of the role on the female body? What does it mean to be a woman in a time of increaswoman in a time of increasing corporeal alterations, vio-lations, inscriptions, codings, fetishizing and objectifying? To control one's body is to control one's life. Our bodies are our biographies, our so-cial, political and sexual iden-tities.

are our biographics, our screen and sexual identities.

How culture defines and represents the female body is the focus of "The Illustrated Woman: The Second Annual Conference on Feminist Activism and Art," a collaboration of women artists, activists, film and video artists, scheduled for this weekend, February 4th and 5th at the Center for the Arts Forum at Yerba Buena Gardens. The event is sponsored by SF Camerawork and The LAB. In conjunction with "The Illustrated Woman," The LAB will present a group multiwill present a group multi-media exhibition by women presenters entitled Address-ing Herself.

Bodies in question

Bodies in question

Art as activism is a central topic of the conference: participants will examine the means by which feminist art subverts the "biomedical politicization" of the female body. To this end, Orlan, a surgically-altered Parisian artist, will present her ongoing self-transformational performance/lecture, Operation-Reussie and, approaching the idea of the body from an altogether different angle, Carla Kirkwood will present an interdisciplinary solo performance of adolescent resistance, Bodies of Evidence. Excerpts from both Michelle Handelman's Women on the Edge, a documentary about women in the leather S/M community, and New York artist Kathy High's video Underexposed, the Temple of the Fetus, will be shown.

Opening night keynote speeches will be delivered by performer/writer Sapphire, filmmaker Barbara Hammer, visual artists Hung Liu, Millie Wilson, and media artist Shu

filmmaker Barbara Hammer, visual artists Hung Liu, Millie Wilson, and media artist Shu Lea Cheang. Kirkwood's performance will follow.
Saturday's panels include "Frankenstein's Daughters, Hardy Heroines and Body Morphs," a discussion among artists, theorists and writers about "issues facing women artists who represent their own images, histories, communities and desires through autobiography, fiction, performance and visual art." Pan-

Orlan and the Art of the Radical Makeover

All the World's an O.R.

by Dorian Gray

all started in 1978 t all started in 1978 with an ectopic pregnancy, one that occurs outside the uterus. The woman had a busted Fallopian tube and was hemorrhaging internally. There was no choice. They were going to have to operate. Fast.

Orlan, the woman in question, was organizing an internal programme.

Orlan, the woman in question, was organizing an international symposium on performance and video at the time. So she did what any enterprising performance artist with a burst Fallopian tube would do: she got a video camera into the operating room and had an epidural room and had an epidural block (local anaesthetic) administered, which allowed her to direct the filming of her own medical emergency. Each tape as it came out of the camera was taxied to the

Surgical poetics

Today the French performance artist describes that



Orlan, undergoing transformation

creative choice as "a fight against the inexorable, the programmed, everything which one doesn't decide for oneself. I tried to reverse the situation in order to master it. To act as though it were my decision." Sounding like the professor of Beaux Arts that she is, Orlan explained, "This

is the recuperation of life as an aesthetic phenomenon. This is art and life carried to their extremes.

Fifteen years later, Orlan is back on the operating table. Only now instead of waiting for the random anatomical disaster to strike, she's volun-

Second of Two Sections

(Continued on page 41)

by Orland Outland

Part of the Bobby Ray Inman story that didn't make headlines: The nominee for the secretary of defense post blamed a vicious media for prompting his withdrawal, and he said that in addition to the usual prying, three different reporters had asked him if he was gay. The Washington Post said that "there had been a whispering campaign been a whispering campaign about his sexual orientation after a 1980 episode in which after a 1980 episode in which he refused to revoke the security clearance of a gay man at the National Security Agency." Inman said, "When I made the decision, a very pragmatic one, to keep the gay employee on at NSA, there were lots of allegations, whispers, suggesting that I must be of comparable persuasion, else I wouldn't have made that decision. Those [rumors] had come from other agencies as well. All of the law enforcement and security law enforcement and security agencies were adverse to the decision." Well, it looks like we just lost the one candidate for defense secretary who would have stood up to any and all pressure from the right on gays in the military.

In the

On our Mainstage! The Five

Secretaries

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He'd have given Lestat a bite to remember.

It's time for another episode of Now It Can Be Told, a feature of this column every time a celebrity kicks the bucket and the details of the bucket and the details of his sex life come out. In Chapter MCMIV, The New York Observer noted that on a recent episode of the cable-access show Party Talk, Village Voice dish maven Michael Musto was "dropping heavy hints about recently overdosed River ly overdosed River Phoenix's possible sexual ambiguity." Had he lived, that

certainly would have made his climactic scenes with Tom Cruise in Interview With the Vampire more interesting, no?

What this town needs is a good tabloid, with headlines like "Toddler Terminated in Tenderloin Turf War!" Barring that, a weekly paper like the New York Observer, which reads like the old Spy (back when it was funny). The Observer was present at a NYC auction benefiting Gay Games IV, where Sotheby's premier auctioneer, Robert Woolley, gaveled off various Woolley, gaveled off various treasures, including (for \$4,000) a day on the set of S.F.s Falcon Studios. "You can be the fluffer," he said to stir up bidding (though I am told Falcon doesn't use fluffers, actually). Woolley himself dropped \$2,000 for a dinner date with Falcon star Paul Bain, but insisted he'd be having "just dinner" with his prize, even though somebody told him that Bain "puts out." Woolley showed the Observer Bain's card, which described him as an employee scribed him as an employee of "Corporate One Executive Assistance." No comment required from moi on that one

ally as a secretary. So I simply had to go see The Five Lesbian Brothers' play, *The Secretaries*, at Theater Secretaries, at Theat Rhinoceros And I enjoyed Rhinoceros. And I enjoyed it thoroughly, especially Peg Healey's performance as "Susan Curtis," the Sharon Stone-like leader of a cult of Slim-Fast addicted secretaries at an Oregon lumber mill, who knock off a lumberjack once a month in an orgy of blood and pizza. It's Twin Peaks meets The Stepford Wives, with a touch of Bell, Book and Candle thrown in for good measure. You have to see a play when it has a line as priceless as "We don't kill them because we're bad" It plays through Feb. 19: bad." It plays through Feb. 19; call Rhino at 861-5079 for tix/info.

books, have whiten their story (with no ghostwriter!) and called it Straight From the Heart (subtitled, "A Love Story"). Boring people have rights, too, but does that include the right to foist their beginning of the straight of the strai

boring story on the rest of us?

Note to Bob and Rod: your

Note to Bob and Rod: your private life is your business, and if you chose to live a closed lie for all those years, well, it was your immortal souls in torment and not mine. However, don't come blathering to me about how now you want to be role module for ground legion yours.

els for gay and lesbian youth when the fact is that you'd still be in the closet today if

you hadn't been forced out. Sorry, but that doesn't say "role model" to me.

Lip-synching Scott Thomp

not a figure skater but still gay.

That darn Philadelphia it just keeps making news.
The lead item in Variety's
"Buzz" column last week was
the reaction of openly gay
comic and Kids in the Hall
star Scott Thompson to the film. Angry about the trend of giving gay starring roles to straight actors, Thompson straight actors, Thompson said, "I feel like this is our Color Purple. It seemed like a movie about black people starring whites ... I don't re-

There are all kinds of arguments against gay mar-riage: "natural law," "Western tradition," etc. But Rod and Bob Jackson-Paris may be the best argument against it, if only because these spokesif only because these spokesmen for the sacred institution are about the most vapid couple this side of **Pat and Vanna**. The former body-builder and the former model, who now star together in soft-porn "art photography" books, have written their story (with no ghostwriter!) and

William Hurt: No Carmen Miranda.

call any gay roles played by gay men." Thompson cited William Hurt's performance in Kiss of the Spider Woman as a typically inaccurate performance. "I'm sorry, I lived with a Brazilian queen — that was no Brazilian queen." And Tom Hanks' opera scene? "I'm an opera queen, and if you're an opera queen listening to your favorite aria, aren't you lipsynching? Lip-synching is the most popular gay sport, after figure skating."

Call my Psychic Dish Net-work at 995-2342. Believe it or not, I can predict with amazing accuracy what the best gossip will be in next week's column!

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Opera

Harvey Gets an Opera

The San Francisco Opera, Houston Opera and New York City Opera have co-commissioned a new work based on the life and death of Harvey Milk, San Francisco's first openly gay elected public official. The opera, entitled, Harvey Milk, features music by Stewart Wallace and a libretto by Michael Korie. The production will be co-pro-

duced by the Houston, New York and San Francisco opera companies and will receive its world premiere in Houston in January 1995. Harvey Milk will be presented by the New York City Opera in the spring of 1995 and will be presented by the San Francisco Opera during the Fall 1996 opera season.

Composer Stewart Wallace

and librettist Michael Korie have collaborated on other have collaborated on other musical projects, namely, Where's Dick?, which premiered at the Houston Opera in 1989; Kabbalah, a ritual opera for 10 performers, which premiered at the Brooklyn Academy of Music in 1989; and a chamber opera entitled Hopper's Wife.

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The Hamptons Hosts Film Festival

Suburban Melodramas

by Brandon Judell

he Hamptons, that

he Hamptons, that exclusive mecca for sugar daddies, lipstick lesbians, art fags and moneyed straights, has recently been host to a chi-chi film festival.

What are the Hamptons, you say? For those not familiar with this prestigious East Coast enclave, James Saslow, author of Ganymede in the Renaissance: Homosexuality in Art and Society, and a Hamptons' renter, explains it succinctly when he says the Hamptons are where "gays used to go 20 or 30 years ago because they were too sedate for the Fire Island life style."

Gays are no longer so sedate but walre still regists.

Gays are no longer so sedate, but we're still going to the Hamptons. Even dead gays can't resist the atmosphere, like famous New York poet Frank O'Hara, who is buried in a Hampton's cemetery at the feet of legendary abstract painter Jackson Pollock.

son Pollock.

However, despite the strong gay presence in the Hamptons, its first international film festival was, by far, the straightest in recent memory. There was only one gay-themed feature, Michael (Zorba the Greek) Cacoyannis' Up, Down and Sideways. The plot: Maria (Irene Papas) and her handsome gay son, Stavros, share a passion for The plot: Maria (Irene Papas) and her handsome gay son, Stavros, share a passion for opera and hot numbers. One day amidst a traffic jam, Stavros is mistakenly arrested by the cops as a bank robber. To escape the law, he hops on the back of a motorcycle driven by Anestis, a gym instructor who claims to be Maria Callas' son. A three-some of sorts occurs among the leads, which is spiced up by a coterie of sailors, a transvestite, and a mad night at the opera. The vice-president of distribution for Aries Film Releasing, T.C. Rice, was at the festival searching for films to buy. He critiqued: "It's a lot of laughs, but I don't know how wide a general audience it will appeal to. On the other hand, it might just have something infectious about it that could catch on for no real reason."

Revamped 'Streetcar'

for no real reason.'

Also screened was A Streetcar Named Desire, revamped with the four additional minutes that were excised years ago by censors. It was being paraded about as if was being paraded about as it a half-hour had been added. So now Stella walks down the steps sultrily. Perhaps someone should mention Tennessee Williams' overt speeches about homosexuality which peter made it into speeches about homosexuality which never made it into the film in the first place. Still, this is a flick always worth another viewing, no matter how flimsy the excuse. Gayness was apparent too in a special series of documentaries on artists, including I Don't Just Want You to

I Don't Just Want You to Love Me, on Rainer Werner Fassbinder, Larry Rivers' Public and Private, plus Paul Bowles: The Complete Outsider. Noteworthy, too, were the rather clever, though straight, short films by actors trying to stretch their resumes with directorial credits: Rob Morrow's Silent Alarm, Matthew Modine's When I Was a Boy and Daryl

Hannah's very funny The Last Supper, in which a little girl uses a severed arm to rid Mom of her new boyfriend. All three stars/directors at-

Of all the films shown, however, the best were the student films out of New York University's Tisch School of the Art's Department of Film, Television and Video. More than 65 undergraduate and graduate student films from around the Eastern half of the United States were screened. The subjects were so lavendertinged—homosexuality, drag queens and AIDS—that one need not worry about the future of gay U.S. filmmaking.

Camus flummoxed

The big disaster of the festival was Luis Puenzo's The Plague, starring William Hurt, Robert Duvall and Raul Julia. Based on Camus' famous novel of the same name, the subject of a city ravished by a contagious disease couldn't be more relevant. But the project is steeped in pretension and inept direction. You'll want to get vaccinated by the time it ends.

But the true tour de force of the four-day event was a panel on film preservation which included Martin Storspanel on film preservation which included Martin Scorsese and Steven Spielberg. The two were witty, knowledgeable and one might even say "humble." Scorsese noted, "You know Billy Wilder once said, 'Ernst Lubitsch can do more with a closed door than a modern director can do with an open fly." Spielberg admitted, "I think about the audience too much, wou stop thinking about yourself — and you wonder, well, how do I fit into my own movies? Where do I put myself? And recently I've been making movies where for the first time I thought more about myself than the people the film will eventually play to — and I've had a rather wonderful, personal experience working this way. It's late in my life, but better late than never." better late than never.

Scorsese, inspired, shared too: "I saw many films as a child because of having severe asthma. My mother and father didn't know what to do with me, no sports or anything. The very first film I remember seeing was Duel in member seeing was Duel in the Sun. My mother took me to see it because she knew I liked westerns and she was particularly interested in seeing it because the film had been condemned by the been condemned by the church. 'I'll take the kid.' That was just an excuse to watch what they had termed 'lust in the dust.'

So with openness like this, maybe there's need for another film festival soon?

"Not in the Hamptons!" screamed fuming playwright/activist Larry Kramer a few hours later, pointing to the crowds lining up outside a movie theater, as he stalked down the street. "I moved here to escape crowds to eshere to escape crowds, to escape New Yorkers. Now look at this town!"

We're looking, Larry! But now that the festival is over and the vacation homes are shuttered, and the boulevards are covered with snow, you can once again create — or fume — in peace.

But not so for advertising legend Jerry Della Femina who helped sponsor the festival. There is a warrant out for his arrest, not because he helped unleash Abel Ferrara's horrid remake, Bodysnatchers, on an unsuspecting pumpkins in front of his food shop. Yes, that's right, pumpkins on display. The powers that be in East Hampton consider the orange gourds a form of unauthorized exhibition, which is strictly forbidden in these parts. In fact, The New York Times quoted Mr. Della Femina as stating, "I never knew you could go to jail for flowers and pumpkins." (Do you think sodomy is a better reason?)

Word has it that this quaint, suburban to-do has supplied the plot for Ferrara's next feature, a remake of the 1960's Village of the Damned. The working title: Town-of the Kramers. ▼



William Hurt was marooned in Luis Puenzo's film, *The Plague*, based on Albert Camus' novel.



Susanne Linke/'Ruhr-Ort'

Industrial Movement

by Wendell Ricketts

still chuckling over the review that famed New Yorker famed New Yorker critic Arlene Croce gave several years ago to a series of European dance companies then visiting New York. Lamenting the influence of a certain post-modern, post-expressionist, post-something Continental style on American forms, Croce skewered the likes of both Pina Bausch and Maurice Bejart with a blunt dismissal: "Eurotrash!"

Ms. Croce wouldn't have liked Susanne Linke's RuhrOrt either.

Ort either.

Ruhr-Ort — literally, "the Ruhr place" — is Linke's eponymous homage to the ineponymous homage to the industrial and mining region on the western edge of the former West Germany that has been her adopted home for more than 20 years. Ruhr-Ort received its San Francisco premiere at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts on January 26th and 27th.

Ruhr-Ort is meant to convey the "gritty" life of the Ruhr's working class — machinists, assembly-line and steel workers, miners, and other laborers. Although

steel workers, miners, and other laborers. Although Linke originally intended the piece to be a vehicle for herself, she decided, after witnessing what the program note calls the "inferno-like spectacle of a steel plant," to write herself out of Ruhr-Ort and turn it into a project for and turn it into a project for

and all-male company.

The stage for *Ruhr-Ort* is cavernous and dimly lit, so that Linke's seven dancers are literally dwarfed by the

fuming, noisy pit that encloses them. It's a kind of steel mill cum coal mine; more than anything it resembles the bleak, vaporous planet in the opening sequences of Aliens

The conceit of Ruhr-Ort is promising: Linke's dancers are dressed in standard-issue work clothes and steel-toed

attonielin

boots; at one point, each of them cradles, balances, and repeatedly drops an 80-pound aluminum ingot. If they stag-ger under the weight, and if their collars are soaked with sweat, it is real staggering and real sweat, not choreogra-nby or makeup. phy or makeup.

On the one hand, one On the one hand, one needn't struggle to recognize the rather trite metaphor Linke is engaged with here: humankind swallowed up in the maw of industrial progress. The spirit-sucking banality of working life in a European version of Levitown. On the other, Ruhr-Ort does succeed in evoking a kind of underworld in which the male mysteries prevail. Vulcan presides over this landscape of smoke, fire, and steel, and Linke is on to something when she attempts to grapple artistically with the manifest maleness of her submanifest maleness of her sub-

ject.

But there is little that is But there is little that is subtle about the piece. In its early moments, strobe-like flashes of light (provided by an on-stage arc welder) illuminate the vast upstage area. There, a group of metal ladders lean against the far wall. Slowly, five dancers descend there are descend make their ways. Slowly, five dancers descend them and make their way to center stage, where, in unison, they attack an immense piece of sheet metal with sledgehammers. Immediately, Linke establishes the archetype of male instrumentality — and yet there is enormous futility in it: For all its sound and fury, the workers' prolonged hammering actually produces no result.

ly produces no result.

Next, the dancers begin to run in place on the sheet of metal, which quakes and clangs with every deafening footfall. Linke's recurrent use of the running motif suggests that she is to running what choreographer Laura Dean is to spinning; each is interested in the kind of hypnotic beauty that comes from the repetition of movement.

on of movement.

For all of that, however,
Ruhr-Ort remains strangely
inarticulate — and so, on the
whole, do Linke's dancers.
Her men grimace with
tongues extended like Maori warriors; they gesture and writhe, convulsed with tics. They outshout and out-jabber one another during their work breaks; they parrot each other's gestures and phrases; they greet one another's mis-fortunes with the same coarse, hearty laughter that

Ruhr-Ort, choreographed by Susanne Linke.

they bring to the inevitable rounds of smutty locker-room

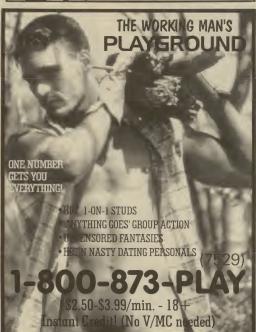
bragging.
But from the clangorous opening sequence of dancers slamming full tilt into sheet metal with sledgehammers, Ruhr-Ort has very little room to grow toward any sort of dramatic climax.

The result, then, is a kind of muted depiction. Ruhr-Ort has force but it does not have

power. It evokes, but it does not evolve. One could legitimately say, in fact, that Ruhn-Ort isn't dance as much as it is a collection of dance effects.

No doubt Linke has paid fine tribute with Ruhr-Ort to the blue-collar ethos of her home town. Beyond an obvious documentary reverence, however, she seems to have however, she seems to have had trouble locating a point of view on her subject.





BAY AREA REPORTER FEBRUARY 3, 1994

Theatre

Star Turns

by Jerry Metzker

hen Lanford Wilson's Burn This opened on Broad-way in 1987, John way in 1987, John Malkovich gave a scenery-chewing performance that reduced his co-performers to helpless rag dolls. Not so with the Kudzu Theatre's production currently playing at Above Brainwash Theatre. Instead of letting one character run wild, director Reid Davis has focused his attention on the entire cast. He's created a whole on which no part is allowed a larger portion.

Certainly Phil Stockton's Pale has tremendous energy,

Certainly Phil Stockton's Pale has tremendous energy, is as truculent as any characterization can be, and even chews some scenery of his own. But he is not alone. In fact, next to Charla Chabot's multi-layered performance as Anna, he takes a back seat.

Anna is a woman of few words, at least in this play. Her dance partner and best friend Robbie has just been killed in a freak boating accident along with his gay lover, leaving her suddenly alone and lost. Her boyfriend, Bur-

ton, (Greg Hoffman) lingers on the fringes of her life, a perpetual potential security blanket, a retreat from the constant upheaval that is a dancer's life.

Then Pale, Robbie's volatile and grieving older brother, literally barges into her apartment. Pale is even lonelier than Anna, but dynamic, sexual and frightening. He awakens desires he never He awakens desires he never knew she had, feelings that both intrigue and repel her. The two begin an intricate and dangerous dance.

Wilson has laid the foundations for the state of the

Wilson has laid the founda-tion for a contemporary tragedy here, and as the pas-sion between Anna and Pale increases, Chabot's perfor-mance gets deeper. Even as Anna physically and verbally pushes Pale away, Chabot's body and soul long for him. body and sour long for film. While speaking firmly, she twists her fingers in uncertainty. When she curls up on the sofa, she does so out of the physical need for stability and order in her suddenly un-wieldy world. In spite of her-self she is drawn to him.

But every tragedy does not have a Larry (Ross Mar-

tineau), the wise-cracking, lovable other gay roommate. Larry is confidante, observer, and miracle-worker. In spite of not having much of a social life of his own, he prevents Anna and Pale from destroy-

ing each other.

I have heard both positive I have heard both positive and negative assessments of this play. Personally I'm torn. While I applaud Wilson's incredible use of language and stagecraft, I object to the control he exerts over the action of the play. Wilson did not want to write a complete tragedy, so he added Larry and filled Burn This with hone.

I'm not opposed to hope I'm not opposed to hope and happy endings, but being a contemporary playwright, influenced by Beckett, the hope is questionable. The play concludes on a note of uncertainty that is more annoying than dramatically connelling.

uncertainty that is more annoying than dramatically compelling.

Still, terrific performers are worth watching and Charla Chabot is terrific. ▼

Burn This Above Brainwash Theatre Through Feb. 12 995-4778

Film Clips

Noir in Color

Noir in Color

Red Rock West is a glossy,
noir-in-color drama starring
Nicholas Cage as a down-andout guy who's mistaken for a
hit man (Dennis Hopper). Totally broke, Cage can't resist
taking a \$5,000 payment for
killing a bar owner's wife, but
doesn't shoot her. After warning her of the danger she's in
(and making another deal),
Cage hightails it out of town,
only to be drawn back —
again and again — to the scene
of his non-crime. Like the
best of film noir, Red Rock again and again — to the scene of his non-crime. Like the best of fillm noir, Red Rock West has a convoluted, suspenseful plot, a crackling sense of humor, and stylish visuals. Director John Dahl has assembled something of a David Lynch reunion here with Cage, Hopper and Lara Flynn Boyle, but his filmmaking is less affected and more affecting.

At the Roxie (863-1087)

At the Roxie (863-1087)

Careening 'Gate'

M. Butterfly author David Henry Hwang wrote Golden Gate, about a San Francisco-based FBI agent (Matt Dillon) Gate, about a San Francisco-based FBI agent (Matt Dillon) who knowingly ruins a Chinese man's life — the agent accuses him of Communist ties in the 1950s — then years later falls in love with the man's daughter (Joan Chen). It's a great premise for a drama (or an opera), only Hwang and director John Madden can't decide what they're making — a period piece, film noir homage, a post-modern satire of '50s FBI movies, or a social critique. Gate is nicely shot, but careens from the didactic to the soap operatic, never quite finding its stride. Hwang and Madden seem unaware when they've said something visually, for they are constantly repeating verbally things they've shown 10-15 minutes earlier. Then there are just plain loopy lines like (from Chen:) "I wanted to ruin your life, but not like this." And (from Dillon): "Some loves are impossible, but they are loves just the same." Indeed.

At the Bridge Theatre (751-3212)

same." Indeed.

At the Bridge Theatre (751-3212)

Out of Gas, Synch

I rarely leave a movie I'm writing about until the end credits have played out, but Car 54, Where Are You? was a special case: I left ten minutes after its inept, out-of-touch, out-of-synch, out-of-gas touch, out-of-synch, out-of-gas opening sequence made it clear that this was a big mess, one that would only get much worse, one that might make the new Richard Gere/Sharon Stone vehicle Intersection look like Citizen Kane. To test my theory, I slipped over to the Regency II, and I was right. Scary. Anyone who thinks Sharon Stone can act (we already know her co-star can't) is cordially invited to watch this pic — Lolita Davidovich blows her off the screen.

Miss 'em both.

-Daniel Mangin

Theatre

ACT's 'Uncle Vanya'

Scandalous Revelations

by John F. Karr

hoa! A sexy, nearly scandalous production of Chekhov's *Uncle* Chekhov's Uncle Vanya — who'd have thought it possible! Or knew that Vanya could be as immediate and physical as the version directed by ACT Artistic Director Carey Perloff, now at the Marines Memorial Theatre. Did we even think for a moment that this hoary old play could be shocking until play could be shocking until Ms. Perloff dusted it off, had Paul Schmidt translate it into a vernacular that catches the snappy freshness the original must have had in 1899, and must have had in 1899, and staged it in a production that seems, in all its revelatory aspects, a world premiere?

Here is a Vanya so fresh that it elicits not only belly laughs but also gasps of disbeller over its exylative and

lief over its sexuality and playfulness — and, finally, murmurs of assent from its audience. And I saw it with the famously complacent blue-haired ladies of matinee day at the

blue-haired ladies of matinee day at that.

Uncle Vanya is the story of what happens to a group of people when their lives are restricted, in this instance, to a barely thriving provincial farm. Sexual need is great, and unmet; ambitions and dreams, also unmet, turn rancorous; and love, both requitcorous; and love, both requit-ed and not, is reduced over its own flame to a sadly con-gealed morass of short-circuit-

ed passion.

It's all heartbreakingly fun ny. Chekhov zeroes in on our common demons of destruction, shows them in full force, and then reveals the quiet moments of desperate, brave loneliness in which we survive them. With eloquent and surprisingly timely pleas, he sees us being destroyed in the same callous way as our natu-ral resources, and that note of environmentalism is just one more previously unheard ma-



jor element that emerges afresh from Perloff's dusting off.

Sexy Farce

Sexy Farce

Uncle Vanya is a farce as well as a tragedy; Perloff also reveals it as a very sexy play. Perloff's characters come upon each other in scandalous, shocking moments. Even when drunk and foolishly celebrating a moment's freedom, two men can be thrown together in breathless physical intimacy.

Perhaps because of these impending surprises, Perloff starts her version slow. Too

slow for me; the first act seems becalmed. But the excellence of the ensemble won me over, followed soon enough by growing apprecia-tion of Perloff's re-envisioning

tion of Perloff's re-envisioning of the play.

Maybe the director's only providing time for us to digest Kate Edmunds' wonderful set, a colorful sort of Kandinsky in Wonderland, where indoors and outdoors are intermingled, upstairs becomes downstairs without demarcation, and windows and doors sprout in new and novel locations and sizes. It's a place as expansive as our

el locations and sizes. It's a place as expansive as our hopes, yet as confined as our experience.

What Perloff has done with this set, the translation, and her impeccable direction is to release the play from the accretion of realistic trappings that have weighed it down. Here, there's not much more than a samovar, a settee, and Beaver Bauer's handsome costumes. When thus allowed more air, the play burns brighter than ever before.

Only Perloff's request that her cast naturalistically act

Only Perloff's request that her cast naturalistically act their way through their monologues seems out of step. Wouldn't it have been more in line with her concep-tion, as startlingly fresh and

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Tony Amendola, right and friend, Wendell Pierce, left, admire a life beyond their reach in *Uncle Vanya*.

modern as the other elements of the production, if they addressed the audience directly?

Swell Cast

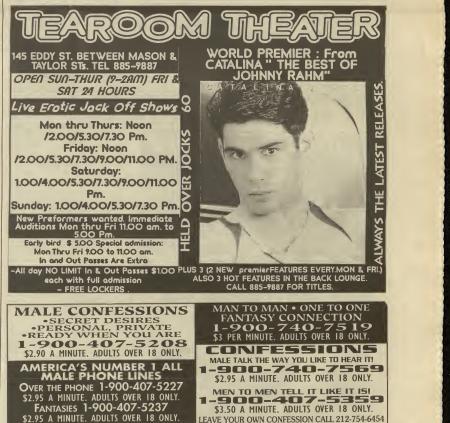
The cast is swell. Sharon Omi is a wonder as Sonya, her love and youth at first bursting out, her subsequent disappointment held tight and hurting all the more. Vilma Silva's Yelena is a subtle creation, keeping us guessing about her needs until a cru-cial moment. Roberta Callacial moment. Roberta Callahan, with her wounded eyes and Cheshire cat smile, is a knowing nurse. Wendell Pierce as the family doctor holds the greatest surprises, whether revealing his sexual desire to Yelena or drunkenly dancing with Vanya, throwing himself on top of the man in a wild, sexy moment

Vanya is played by Tony Amendola, who, as usual, blazes. What a thrill, earning a commingled gasp, laugh and a tear, when he throws himself in denunciation against his towering elder, only to clasp him in impotent despair. The subsequent scenes in which he brandishes a pistol against the man have a pistol against the man have never been more riotous. Amendola's is a memorable Vanya in a memorable

Vanya.

This is an Uncle Vanya to be cherished, lovingly crafted by wise artists. I wish Chekhov could see it. ▼

Uncle Vanya ACT, through March 6 749-2ACT





Bitter Brew

The Penguin Book of Lesbian Short Stories, edited by Margaret Reynolds; Penguin, \$27.50

by Deborah Peifer

he recently released Penguin Book of Lesbian Short Stories might be more accurately titled The Penguin Book of Lost, Lonely, and Lurid Lesbians. Editor Margaret Reynolds has gathered works by 32 women, and in so doing raises serious questions about the whole idea of so doing raises serious questions about the whole idea of identity and identity politics. In her introduction, Reynolds defines lesbian writing as "writing which exhibits, within the confines of the text itself, something which makes it distinctively about, or for, or out of lesbian experience ... Many of the writers in this collection are lesbian; some of them are heterosexual; some of them would call themselves bisexual; some would choose to call themselves by none of these names. Who knows? Who cares?" tions about the whole idea of

Well, to start with, I do. Well, to start with, I do. I'm very concerned that, giv-en Reynolds' definition, Nor-man Mailer and Phyllis Schlafly could soon write and publish lesbian fiction. And if anyone can write something called lesbian fiction, does the term still have meaning? We name ourselves to claim com-monality with others of our

kind. I have to think that, un-til being a lesbian has no po-litical significance, the use of the word had better be charged with more meaning than Reynolds suggests.

Having said that, I must confess that this is not a very good collection of anything. My first objection is that some of the stories in the book are excerpts from longer works. A chapter from covered is not a short story. a novel is not a short story, but Reynolds includes several such extracts in this volume, suggesting that there were

LESBIAN SHORT STORIES

PENGUIN BOOK

MARGARET REYNOLDS

8 1

CERTICA

not enough worthy short stories to fill a book. And yet I could name several excellent collections of short fiction written by lesbians. Where was Reynolds looking, I won-

Many tragic lesbians

My second objection is to the choices themselves. Thir-teen of the 32 pieces were written before Stonewall, and most of these are of the tragic lesbian, hidden lesbian, or

tragic-hidden lesbian genre. Typical of this dark and depressing view of lesbian life is an excerpt from an Ann Bannon pulp novel from the '50s in which Laura tries "to make hearest sound normal and or." in which Laura tries "to make herself sound normal and ordinary when her whole body was begging for strange passion, for forbidden release." Several of the later pieces are set in pre-Stonewall times, so there are even more hidden and tragic lesbians.

Of course, there is also a story set in 19th-century Eng-land (I'm guessing, based on a few obscure clues in the text) in which there are lesbians everywhere who have "coming out balls" and who are just happy as clams and have attitudes toward sexuality that seem remarkably similar to those of late 20th-century America.

There are some worthy selections — by Anna Livia and Jewelle Gomez, among a very few — but for \$27.50, you could buy the editions in which these stories originally appeared and end up with a whole lot more bang for the buck.

I suspect that, had this collection come out 25 years ago, it might have had some value. In 1994, however, it looks like little more than a mainstream publisher's attempt to cash in on lesbian chic. Don't let Pen-guin get away with this. ▼

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Tea and Crumpets

The Penguin Book of Gay Short Stories, edited by David Leavitt & Mark Mitchell; Viking, \$27.50

Roberto Friedman

his introduction to n his introduction to The Penguin Book of Gay Short Stories, the new anthology he edit-ed with Mark Mitchell, David Leavitt congratulates himself Leavitt congratulates himself for not excluding women or heterosexual male writers from his collection. The collection of 39 stories does include choices which expand the parameters of gay men's literature. Good work is good work, regardless of the sexuality of the author. More's the pity the overall range seems pity the overall range seems so narrow.

Partner Mitchell is strangely missing from the introduction, traditionally the place for an editor to stake out his identity and explain his choices. But the intro to this supposedly collaborative affair is unmistakably an excursion in the first person, singular. Leavitt begins by lamenting his choices of gay fiction while casting around as a teenager in the '70s. He conveys his disdain for the popular gay novels then available, specifically Andrew Holleran's Dancer From The Dance and the Gordon Merrick romances (The Lord Won't Mind, etc.) He is appropriately leery of both hack Harlequin-style novels and beauty-worshipping gay ghetto fiction as the only models apparently available to him then; but I wonder that in his formative years he never found Genet's Our Lady of the Flowers, or Burroughs's Naked Lunch or The Wild Partner Mitchell is strange



Boys. Either would have of-fered a definite alternative to the Fire Island set.

But one gets the impression that Leavitt would prefer all gay fiction to be as liter-ary, as polite as the work of E.M. Forster, his favorite writer. Certainly the British, the well-bred and the sexually understated predominate in his anthology. The first 200 pages alone are almost entirely given over to stuffy British writers, starting with D.H. Lawrence and proceeding to Graham Greene.

The inclusion of stories about gay men by straight writers is a good, even a courageous idea in the abstract, but what on earth is Greene's fag-hating "May We Borrow Your Husband?" doing in this book, while so much good work by genuine-

ly gay writers goes unno-ticed? Do we really need to make room for stories that perpetuate all those old wishing, predator stereo-

As you would expect from a 655-page collection, there is much good stuff in the Penguin: old favorites like Forster's "Arthur Snatchfold," and contemporary classics like Allen Gurganus's "Adult Art." But the overall editorial vision rankles me, especially given that the anthology promises to become a standard, paperbacked and kept in print. For one thing, a number of the pieces are not short stories at all, but excerpts from novels or memnibus of gay fiction, but why As you would expect from nibus of gay fiction, but why are they in a book dedicated in its very title to gay short stories?

Been there, done that

Been there, done that

Also, many of the book's showcase selections — Forster's "Snatchfold," Isherwood's Berlin story, James Purdy's excellent "Some of These Days," Gurganus's "Adult Art," Richard McCann's "My Mother's Clothes: The School of Beauty and Shame" — have already graced several earlier, perfectly good gay anthologies. If you are familiar with the pioneering The Other Persuasion, or the Men On Men series, or the Calamus collection, or Edmund White's recent Faber Book of Gay Short Fiction, this latest en (Continued on next page)

(Continued on next page)

Truth by the Ton

Ain't Nobody's Business If You Do: The Absurdity of Consensual Crimes in a Free Society, by Peter McWilliams; 817 pages, \$27.00.

by Jim Coughenour

eter McWilliams' fat book on personal freedom, An't Nobody's Business If You Do, gives every indication of being the right book written by the wrong person in the wrong way. It's got a silly cover; it's about five times too long, and its prose is an uneven mixture of pamphleteer rhetoric and indulgent talk-show host humor. McWilliams, better known for his books on computers and "personal growth," admits as much: "I've been waiting for years for someone to write this book,' he writes, 'If someone had, I wouldn't have had to. Since no one has, I did."

did."
He could have done much worse. Ain't Nobody's Business If You Do deserves more respect than it invites. It's a genuinely interesting (and often genuinely entertaining) book that makes a persuasive case for McWilliams' main argument, which is, to paraphrase: You

should be allowed to do whatever you want with your own person and property, as long as you don't physically harm the person or property of another.

McWilliams doesn't shy away from the implications of his position, which embraces the untrammeled right of any consenting adult to participate in prostitution, sodomy, the recreational, religious or regenerative use of drugs, to collect pornography or join a cult, to cross-dress or go naked or to commit suicide. If the parties involved consent to such activities, McWilliams argues with surprising sanity, it ain't nobody's business but their own.

Appeal to common sense

This is not a new position, as McWilliams knows. It's implicit in the Enlightenment belief in "natural rights" (enshrined in the U.S. Constitution and its Bill of Rights), it's explicit in the work of philosophers like John Stuart Mill, who wrote in his famous essay On Liberty that "the

only purpose for which power can be rightfully exercised over any member of a civilized community against his will is to prevent harm to others. His own good, either physical or moral, is not a sufficient warrant."

ficient warrant."

McWilliams builds upon
Mill's argument in two ways.
First, he appeals to his readers' common sense, pointing
out the manifest absurdity of
punishing consensual acts: the
gross expense (\$50 billion per
year) and injustice of enforcing these laws; the ways they
actually promote real crime;
and the hypocrisy of punishing consensual acts when
"cigarettes do more damage
and cause more deaths than
all of the consensual crimes
combined." Such laws also
distract the public from more
pressing issues and "create a
society of fear, hatred, bigotry, oppression, and conformity." McWilliams' bulleted
lists of statistics are as convincing as they are depressing.

ing.

But the author knows better than to try to make his

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case with statistics alone. As he turns to the case against each consensual crime, he bolsters his position with a mass of historical detail, demon-(Continued on page 51)

Tea

(Continued from previous page)

try in the anthology market may leave you with a feeling of deja vu.

A press release informs me that nearly one third of the contributions were written expressly for this publication, but which ones? The stories' dates of publication and composition are not cited, a real problem when trying to place them historically or in the context of their authors'

work.

Can you tell I was a bit exasperated by this book? No denying the real delights in its pages — Desmond Hogan's lyrical "Jimmy," Edmund White's memoir-like "Reprise," David Plante's exotic "The Princess from Africa." There are duds, as well, such as a hopelessly melodramatic story by Noel Coward that might be of some interest as a curio but only proves the playwright of sparkling repartee had no idea how to pace a short story. Perhaps the biggest surprise is Larry Kramer's "Mrs. Teffilin," an empathetic portrait of elderly Jewish culture convincingly rendered, but homosexuality figures into the story only as a plot device, and a far-fetched one at that. I assume the piece dates from the days before Kramer became reigning diva of rage queens, but then again, there's no year cited, so I can't know for sure.

There are no West Coast writers deemed worthy of in-

There are no West Coast writers deemed worthy of inclusion, unless you count Leavitt himself, who was raised in Palo Alto, and I don't. Why choose Peter Wells (from New Zealand) and not Peter Weltner? Why Bernard Cooper and not Dennis Cooper? The answer seems to lie in Leavitt's (and Mitchell's?) essentially conservative taste, whereby tea and crumpets with Barbara Pym appeals more to some nostalgic literary craving than any venture into New Narrative work. Does the road out of Fire Island necessarily run

straight to the Continent? A list of obvious omissions among gay writers living and working in America would fill the column.

Oddinclusion

Some choices are downright puzzling. The only contributor granted two stories, A.M. Homes, is the author of a terrific short novel, Jack, written from the point of view of a teenage boy who finds out his dad is gay. Homes mimics the language, the thought process, the very inner life of male adolescence remarkably well, considering she's never been one. But Jack is not represented here, and her story "A Real Doll," while a comic treat, has little to do with gay themes, and everything to do with the fantasy sex life a boy enacts with his sister's Barbie Doll. What makes the editors' decision that they must include it in a volume underrepresentative of alternative gay fiction even more puzzling is their inclusion, as well, of Ms. Homes's "The Whiz Kids," which does concern sexual exploration between boys. It also ends the book on a jarring note, the boys' sexual degradation of a female friend. Now that's not a scene in which most queer men care to indulge.

Allen Barnett's "The Times as It Knows Us," an affecting story of the continuing onslaught, is one of the most relevant and finely tuned pieces here. Ironically, its cast of Manhattanite gays sharing a house on Fire Island exactly replicates the scenario of the '70s novel Leavitt so disdains. In Barnett's story, tea dance is incidental to the real suhiect.

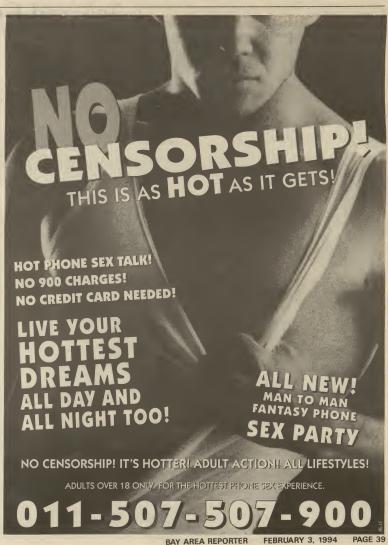
Allen Barnett's "The Times as It Knows Us," an affecting story of the continuing onslaught, is one of the most relevant and finely tuned pieces here. Ironically, its cast of Manhattanite gays sharing a house on Fire Island exactly replicates the scenario of the '70s novel Leavitt so disdains. In Barnett's story, tea dance is incidental to the real subject, which is how we care for each other in the midst of devastating crisis — or don't. Mr. Leavitt should note that the strengths of Barnett's story are very similar to that earlier Island chronicle, the seminal if slick Dancer. Both works faithfully capture, in prose, the type of dish queer men do pass around about each other — in Holleran's

case, while in the throes of hedonist excess; in Barnett's, as we all try to cope with the impossible hand AIDS has dealt.

I was certainly glad, as I too was a gay teen in the '70s, that Dancer From The Dance

was around for me to read, even given Leavitt's valid reservations about its subtext, and even if I was as far from a timeshare in the Pines then as I am now. On the other hand, Leavitt has succeeded in achieving a life worthy of

the middle class's loftiest aspirations. Is it that the shallowness he now so despises in the Merrick books, in *Dancer*, is somehow threatening in its familiarity? Or are trips down Anglophile memory lane adventurous enough?



Community

Body

ued from page 33)

elists inclu'de Brenda Wong Aoki, Christine Tamblyn, Saidiya Hartman, Catherine

Saidiya Hartman, Catherine Lord and Katia Noyes. In a talk entitled, "Diagnos-ing the Female Body: Activist Art, Biopolitics and Networks of Resistance," presenters Kathy High, Marian Winsryg, Crystal Mason, Maria St. John and Carla Kirkwood will look at the ways in which the feat the ways in which the fe-male body has been con-trolled through definition by the medical profession and public health policies. In addi-tion, they will examine the ideologies and strategies used to challenge biomedical poli-

to challenge biomedical politics.

Zoey Kroll of The LAB, one of the curators of Addressing Herself, which runs through March 5 at the LAB Gallery, recently spoke with the Bay Area Reporter about the exhibition and its examination of themse of genders nation of themes of gender commodification, representa-tion and transformation. She remarks that "the show is about the female body on display, the refashioning and revising of the body." It's a show of working artists and activists that complements the discussion and theory generated by "The Illustrated Woman" conference.

Walking museum

One of the more unusual contributions to this year's conference will be Orlan's performance/lecture Operation-Reussie, which Kroll says demonstrates "how history impacts the body." This self-as-artistic-process reveals Orlan's ongoing project of "self-transformation" in which

the artist, through a series of plastic surgery operations, remodels herself to resemble well-known images of women in Western art history: she has Venus' chin, Europa's lips, Diana's eyes, Psyche's nose, Mona Lisa's forehead. Works by Stephanie Cress, Deborah Edwards, Marisa Hernandez, H. Len Keller, Oona Nelson, Jann Nunn, Melissa Pokorny and Millie Wilson will also be featured in the exhibition.

In discussing the impor-

in the exhibition.

In discussing the importance of the conference, Kroll emphasizes how important it is that women "subvert cultural codes that are read as 'feminine' and recreate images of ourselves, while acknowledging the history of our representation — even though it's a limited depiction—and play with it."

- and play with it."
Both the conference and exhibition will allow participants to explore the manifold contradictions that surround images of women in society today: why we continue to strive for beauty and indepen-dence in cultures whose taboos condemn us for doing so; the persistence of myths about female "uncleanliness"; and the cultural conditioning we succumb to in order to be desirable, all the while supressing desire. This meeting of artists and artwork is an opportunity to reclaim both images of ourselves and our desires. ▼

Editor's note: For informa-tion about "The Illustrated Woman" and the exhibition, Addressing Herself, call The LAB at (415) 346-4063. Con-ference tickets may be pur-chased through the Center for the Arts at (415) 978-ARTS/978-2787.

Women's Critical Condition

Critical Condition: Women on the Edge of Violence, edited by Amy Scholder: City Lights Books: \$10.95

by Noreen C. Barnes

helma and Louise had to die. Of course. Or, at least that's what appears to have happened. The images of Susan Sarandon and Geena Davis, pawned off as budding feminists who fight back (with guns, not words), pene-trated our culture — and me-dia commentators' minds dia commentators' minds — like few other movie charac-ters from recent history. For a time, all the chatter con-vinced women that a positive, pro-feminist film had finally been produced by main-stream Hollywood. Oddly, the contrast between the romanti-cized view offered by that film and the reality of women cized view offered by that film and the reality of women today is startling. But, as Amy Scholder, editor of Critical Condition: Women on the Edge of Violence, points out, Thelma and Louise became powerful icons because "women are looking for images of power and self-determination."

Scholder's book is a collection of excerpts from panel discussions, performances and presentations given at last year's first Feminist Activism year's first Feminist Activism and Art conference, co-spon-sored by The LAB and SF Camerawork. Last year's con-ferees considered, among oth-er things, how violence inter-sects with race class, grades. sects with race, class, gender and sexuality and examined such topics as women and power, women who kill, and ITICAL CONDITION women on the edge of violence

women as victims of domestic

Violence.

In a recent interview with B.A.R., Scholder spoke about how she compiled the material from the forums, lectures and performances and shaped and performances and shaped it to reflect the two central, interconnected themes of the conference: domestic violence/sexual abuse and women who kill: "What to me was so moving, shocking and disturbing about putting the book together was that I couldn't edit a work about women who kill without also considering domestic violence. considering domestic violence and sexual abuse." The inexorable link of the two orable link of the two "is a fact that is hard for people to accept." The Wuornos case exemplifies that perfectly. The average person can't empathize with a prostitute being raped — there is a huge gulf in this culture, which is one reason why justice is prevented." vented."

Critical Condition (the ti-

Critical Condition (the title aptly describes, in medical metaphor, the political and social position of women), is prefaced by a list of chilling statistics: a woman is assaulted and beaten every 15 seconds; raped every 1.3 minutes; nearly 40 percent of women are sexually abused by their 18th birthday; most women in prison are poor and have children; women serve twice as long in prison than men for murdering their spouses. Scholder's purpose spouses. Scholder's purpose in starting the book this way was to avoid making vague philosophical statements about violence against women and to instead bluntly illustrate how pervasive violence is in women's lives.

At last year's Feminist Activism and Art conference, two events from recent history were frequently referred to in the works of the presen-ters: the conviction of "serial killer" Wuornos, and the un-solved murders of 45 women "NHI" case, the title being a police code for "No Humans Involved, a reterence to the seeming marginality of the

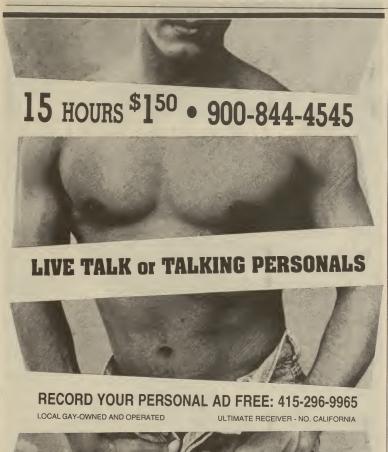
victims The response of artists to "NHI" was to make women visible: Carla Kirkwood per-"NHI" was to make women visible: Carla Kirkwood performed an autobiographical monologue, "Many Women Involved," while the "No Humans Involved" public art project, a collaboration of five artists, meditated on the victims in a series of presentations consisting of billboards, performances, books, discussions and photographs of victims and women representing those for whom there were no photographs. By using stand-ins for the murdered women, the "NHI" project's Elizabeth Sisco explains that the project, "provided a message of solidarity with the murdered women and with all women in the community. It was a public acknowledgement that violence against one woman is a threat to all women, and that to brand victims of violent sexual assault as prostitutes, drug addicts and transients stifles genuine public concern and gives a false sense of assurance to other women."

Included in the visual art of Critical Condition are pho-

other women."
Included in the visual art of Critical Condition are photographs of Liz Claiborne Inc.'s Domestic Violence Awareness Campaign, Janet Dodson's Prison Project, and Christine Cobaugh's stark, unsettling "Disembodied Beach Series." The book also provides excerpts from the conference's other provocative panel discussions, which coverant discussions discussions, which coverant discussions discussion panel discussions, which cov-ered a variety of topics including media and racism and cluding media and racism and sexual abuse and creativity. Also included is the moving poetry of Wanda Coleman and Sapphire and a performance piece by Dee Russell, all of it articulating the experience of violence, misogyny and racism.

Scholder has done an ex-

Scholder has done an ex Scholder has done an excellent job in Critical Condition illuminating the concerns of women today as stated by women. It is an honest, therefore indispensable, look at subjects most people prefer to look at through rose-colored glasses.



Body

eering for plastic surgery. Working on her image, she has seized control of the means of its production. Remeans of its production. Rejecting mass-market facial norms, she's designed her own radical make-over, including cheek implants inserted under her eyebrows, resulting in a look she describes as part Star Trek and part Mona Lisa. Transforming the operating room into a performance space, Orlan has dressed her doctors in designer costumes and brought in a rapper, a dancer and a signer er costumes and brought in a rapper, a dancer and a signer to perform along with her. She's even read bits of French philosophy mid-operation in order to throw an intellectual light on the flesh-and-blood proceedings.

Ask Michael Jackson

One of the theories behind her practice, to paraphrase the text by Eugnie Lemoine Leuccioni that inspired her work, goes something like this: "The skin is deceptive and disappointing because

and disappointing because one never is what one has." In other words, although you may be what you eat, you never look like how you feel. Just ask Michael Jackson.
"I said to myself," Orlan said to me in French over the phone from New York, "in our day and age it was possible to narrow that gap. It's a question of communication, of bringing the internal image closer to the external image." Using an example near and closer to the external image."
Using an example near and
dear to habitues of the Mother
lode, she explained: "If a
man feels like a woman, he
wants other people to see him
as a woman. And there's a
way to do that. I very often
say that I'm a female-to-female transsexual."
Four years ago. Orlan de-

Four years ago, Orlan decided that what she felt she ought to look like was a computer-generated composite of a handful of female icons from French and Italian paintings, including Botticelli's Venus and the Mona Lisa "What I'm doing is a self-por-trait, a psychological self-por-trait," she said "which is at once traditional and non-traditional because it's so radical, being inscribed directly into my flesh using cutting-edge technology. That's why it's problematic, why it raises questions. If I did it the usual way we wouldn't be here."

If she did it the usual way,

we wouldn't have to watch. She'd go away, like any self-respecting movie star or politician, and not come back until she was a finished prod-uct. But this living objet —or do I mean, sujet d'art — is do I mean, sujet d'art — is nothing if not process-oriented. A recent appearance under the surgeon's knife, last November in New York, was broadcast by satellite to interactive hook-ups in such far-flung places as Paris, Riga and Tokyo. Her subsequent show at the Sandra Gering Gallery in Manhattan featured daily state-of-the-artist photos of her

state-of-the-artist photos of her convalescing, self-portrait self.
"The concept was," explains Orlan, "I got up. I didn't brush my hair. I didn't put on make-up. I didn't do anything. And I got in front of the lense. At first, all bandaged up, then later, bruised and swollen. You can imagine. Like a battered woman, you might say." Plus she dyedher hair black, leaving half her bangs bleached yellow and the other half dark blue.

Uncomfortable

If Orlan had a last name If Orlan had a last name, her middle name would be Radical. She has not lost touch with her artistic beginnings in the '70s, the good old days of Fluxus and happenings, when life was art and art was life and nobody could tell the difference. "I'm trying to take these incredients." to take those ingredients—without being a has-been—and make a 21st-century performance using modern means that reconnects with that weight, that strength,

that discomfort."

Refusing the role of the suffering artist, she swears suffering artist, she swears she designs her operations to be as unmasochistic as possible. Nevertheless, she's no softie. "I hate comfortable art," she says. "I hate art that's meant as a decoration, that's like house plants. We already have that at home. We have aquariums and I think that's great, but enough is enough. great, but enough is enough. The art that interests me is art that upsets how we think about things, that opens our eyes. So my work is very uncomfortable for me and very uncomfortable for the public

Editor's note: Orlan will give Editor's note: Orlan will give a non-operative performance and lecture as part of "The Illustrated Woman: The Sec-ond Annual Conference on Feminist Activism and Art," Saturday, February 5 at 8pm at Center for the Arts Forum, 701 Mission Street. Tickets are \$15 general and \$12 stu-dents.For information, call The LAB, 346-4063.

Me'Shell

teners if they come out. The music press would seem to indicate that hip-hop, in particular, has a problem with gay musicians. Likewise, homophobia in black musical circles has become a front-page issue. But while Me'Shell acknowledges that a problem knowledges that a problem exists, she doesn't think it's insurmountable.

"I kind of grew up in an urban situation," said Me'Shell. "I know where the rappers are coming from. Being a man is a precious thing, but they really don't know what it means to be a man There's a problem, but some one just needs to take the time to say 'What's up with that? What makes you feel that way?

Lesbian chic

Me'Shell has mixed feelings about another media phenomenon that hits close to

home: Lesbian chic.
"It has pros and cons, just like anything else. It's sort of great that you get to see 'out' lesbians who are intelligent, speak well, and doing things. I mean, I think America was bombarded with negative images of lesbians. Like, they'd ages of lesolans. Like, they digo to parades and take pic-tures of the most obscure things. And that's all people would see, flamboyant bare-breasted women, which isn't a representation of lesbianism whole. I think it's great



Me'Shell: ''It's no big deal.'

'But otherwise. I think it's a game, like propaganda. All of a sudden it's cool to have lesbian friends, or have a lesbian look. And that's utter bullshit."

bullshit."

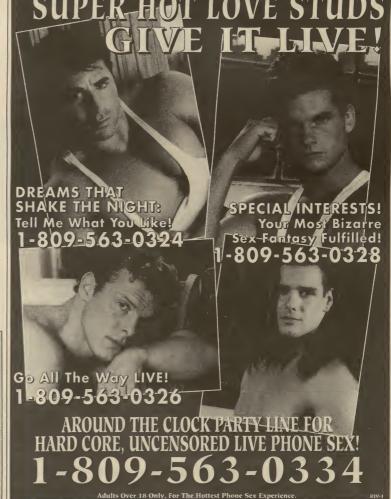
In terms of being gay,
Me'Shell said "she's not interested in being a lesbian
poster child," only that she
"has nothing to hide."

"It's very much a part of
me, and it doesn't affect my
personality. I mean it just is
me," she said. "I am Me'Shell
NdereOcello. I play bass.

NdegeOcello. I play bass, write music and sing. Oh, and I happen to be a lesbian. Maybe I can help people see it in a different light. It's really no big thing."

Plantation Lullabies has been out since November and has earned unusual critical acclaim. Me'Shell's music blends free-form jazz struc-tures with steamy funk atti-

tures with steamy funk attitude and growling husky vocals. Her music is an uncomfortable blend of rage and peace, an apparent contradiction that Me'Shell thrives on. "I don't think I'm political. I try not to deal with anything in the political system, because it doesn't work for me as a black person," she said. "Black love in the midst of revolution — to love myself and to love other people — that's what I think the album is about."



Naiad Shorts

The Romantic Naiad; Edited by Katherine V. Forrest and Barbara Grier; Naiad, \$14.95

The Romantic Naiad is the latest anthology in what I hope will be a continuing series of short pieces by Naiad writers. It is an impressive collection indeed. Consider the opening of "Sign Language," by Penny Sumner: "Roses are red, apples too. This being about True Love there will, of course, be roses. But the apples come first: they were my idea" — a lovely introduction to a sweet little story. Jennifer Fulton writes a bizarre, and ultimately, hilarious tale of a lesbian who kidnaps a woman in order to save her from becoming "The Bride." Ranging in tone from sweet to steamy, the stories in this anthology will provide unmixed delight.

—Deborah Peifer

-Deborah Peifer

PAGE 41

National Tennis Circuit '94

ot to be outdone by the pros, the gay and lesbian tennis community has its own national tennis circuit. Indeed, if the pros were to see what we have they would see what we have they would be impressed not only with the caliber of play, but with the camaraderie and spirit of good will shared by partici-

good will shared by participants.

The list of cities across America which host annual national tournaments is growing every year. It all began 14 years ago when Dallas' Oak Lawn Tennis Association invited players from other clubs to inin them in a tournament. to join them in a tournament. to join them in a tournament. Each year the competition at the national level has become better and better as new people have learned the circuit and begun to test their skills. Among the many positive aspects of the tournaments is that they offer divisions for players of all levels of ability—from teaching pros to those

players of all levels of ability
—from teaching pros to those
just beginning to appreciate
the sport's appeal. This allows
even beginner or intermediate players to experience the
fun and excitement of nationall tournaments. There are al tournaments. There are, typically, divisions for women and men, as well as mixed doubles events at many of the

tournaments.

This year features a record
14 events, highlighted by the

Gay Games in June. The year gets underway in February with the only clay court tourwith the only clay court tournament on the circuit, sponsored by the South Florida Tennis Club in Ft. Lauderdale. This popular tournament attracts a large crowd because its host town is in a part of the country that provides for many an ideal winter get-away. Plus, its a fun and well organized tournament.

A new club formed in LA

A new club formed in LA is next on the schedule with a tournament scheduled for the first weekend in April. Following that, Minneapolis will host its first tournament May 14-16th.

Memorial Day weekend, May 28-30th, will feature two events. The largest is the San Francisco club's event, called the U.S. Gay Open. It will be the 14th such annual event, and with the large number of women players in the Bay women players in the Bay Area, it should be a real draw for women tournament play-

Louisville, Kentucky is scheduled to host its inaugural tournament over the Memorial Day weekend as well. These tournaments are expected to draw unusually large crowds this year be-cause they will serve as a "warm up" for the Gay Games unfolding three weeks

later.
The tennis highlight of

1994, of course, will be the Gay Games in New York, June 18-25th. This event will host divisions for tennis players according to age and level of ability.

Those who don't leave New York with a medal around their neck may want to try the San Diego tourna-

around their neck may want to try the San Diego tourna-ment over the 4th of July weekend for another chance at winning a medal. Tradi-tionally, the San Diego event is one of the best run on the circuit. It attracts a strong field of players, particularly from California.

from California.

It's not snowing in Chicago in August, but players get to experience the only indoor tournament on the circuit, tournament on the circuit, hosted by their club August 5-

Players have their choice Players have their choice of three tournaments over the September Labor Day weekend: the Los Angeles Tennis Association's National Championship; Atlanta's Peach Tournament; and Portland's Sports Festival.

Sports Festival.
September 16-18th is the date the Washington D.C. group will host its Capital Classic Tournament.
The year's tennis events wrap up with Dallas' tournament October 8-10th and Houston's event November 11-13th.

All clubs hosting national tournaments also have a variety of local tennis activities.

Brian Gold from Los Angeles gets in early practice for the up coming Gay Games.

Those interested in more information about the gay and lesbian tennis circuit or any of the above clubs should contact Gary Sutton, 12750 Centralia St., #126, Lakewood, CA 90715. ▼

Randle Grabs Those Balls

n the opening game of the 1994 basketball season, held last Thursday (January 27), Corey Randle, of the Gay Men's basketball team, played an outstanding game as he grabbed 10 rebounds, scored seven points and blocked three shots. Despite his efforts, the rechristened Hotshots lost to the Brewmasters 60 to 52.

This year's team is really using the Eureka Valley Adult Men's Basketball league as a training ground for New York's Gay Games 4 in June. It appears that at least two teams will represent San Francisco in two different age brackets. However, the league team is suffering from a few problems, though the experience will be important for winning those medals in June.

For one, the team lost last

in June.

For one, the team lost last year's sponsor, Castro Village year's sponsor, Castro Village Pharmacy, due to a buyout of the pharmacy by a larger cor-poration. So, the name used in the '80s, the Hotshots was adopted again. Also, the coach from last season is unavailable and the players have been coaching themselves. been coaching themselves. But, in a reasonable reaction to the first game's results, Eliot Kahn was unanimously elected to be coach (and remains eligible for court time). Finally, half of the team is new, including two-fiths of the starting line-up.

All of these problems were

evident in the tough loss last Thursday. Besides Corey, the best efforts were contributed by Jerome "Louie" Lewis at eight points, three rebounds; Alex Herrera at eight points, three rebounds and two blocked shots; and veteran Mark Johnson with six points, eight rebounds and two blocked shots. Newcomer Joe Jupin also got six boards.

The halftime score was 26 to 25, but the team missed its

to 25, but the team missed its first 10 three-point-shots in the second half after only hitting one of six three pointers in the first half. The Brewmasters scored from all over the floor and took advantage of the Hotshots' misses, yet the Brewmasters only led by five points with four minutes left to play.

This year's team captain, Louie Lewis, expressed his frustration over the outcome, but he recognized that there was no preparation for this season. Due to the holidays and changes in leadership, the players know it will take time for this new unit to become a true team.

Thursday, February 3, the Hotshots will challenge the Run & Gun team at 6:30 p.m. at the 100 Collingwood gym. Their opponent is much taller, and the Hotshots will require an outstanding effort to compete against these guys. The gym is open, free of charge, and fans are encouraged to show up and shout. ♥



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Sports Guide

Basketball

San Francisco Slammers women's basketball team. Call Susan at 648-4931. Men's Basketball — call Tony at 621-2710.

Bicycling

Different Spokes Bicycle Different Spokes Bicycle Club promotes noncompetitive cycling for men and women on both road and mountain bikes. Rides each weekend, plus regular "Decide and Ride" each Sunday at 10 a.m., McLaren Lodge, Golden Gate Park. For schedule or newsletter, please call (415) 282-1647 or write PO Box 14711, San Francisco, CA 94114.

Boating
Barbary Coast Boating
Club — gay boat owners and
enthusiasts meet the 3rd
Wednesday of every month, 7
p.m., Berkeley Yacht Club,
Berkeley Marina. West to the
end of University Ave., #1
Seawall Drive, (415) 905-6267.

Bodybuilding

Arcadia Bodybuilding Society — call 978-9495 or write ABS, 1230 Market Street, SF, CA 94114.

Bowling

Women's Business Bowl ing League. Call Ann at 641-5795.

Tavern Guild Bowling League. Call Mal Garcia at 752-2366.

Boxing

Bay Area Boxing Club, a fully sanctioned USABF (United States Amateur Box-ing Federation) meets Thurs-days at 8 p.m. Open to all interested gay men and les

bians; all skill levels are welcome. Call Greg at 585-2365.

Football

Women's Flag Football: Interested women call Maureen (415) 479-1131.
San Francisco Trojans Football. Two games every Saturday, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., at Silver Terrace near Silver and Bayshore, SF. All skill levels welcome. Call Gary at 344-8873.

Hiking

San Francisco Hiking Club
— Call Clyde at 285-1260.
Gay and Lesbian Sierrans,
official activity section of the
Sierra Club. Call the hotline: 281-5666

South Bay GLS — call the Loma Prieta GLS hotline at 408-236-2170.

Racquet and Paddle Sports

Gay & Lesbian Tennis Federation — John McEnhill, 864-0187, extension 4. Infor-mal social doubles every Sat-urday and Sunday morning at the Flint and 16th Street tennis courts, weather permit-

nis courts, weather permitting.

Table Tennis Anyone?
Practice Tuesdays, 7:00-9:30
p.m., at Milberry Union,
UCSF, 500 Parnassus, SF.
Call Allen Balderson, 6261787, or Lucie, 387-4476.

Running

San Francisco FrontRunners. Fun runs at Stow Lake Boat House in Golden Gate Park, every Saturday, 9 a.m. No-host brunch follows. Call John at 863-0954.

San Francisco Track & Field practice avery. These Field practice avery. These

San Francisco Track & Field, practice every Tues. and Thurs., 6 p.m., and Sun., 10:00 a.m., at Kezar Stadium on Waller & Stanyan streets, SF. Call Rick 550-7966.

Bay Area Distance Runners. Call Dave Studach at 626-1380 or Lois Allen at 586-6013

Scuba Diving

Northern California Rain-

bow Divers: Lesbian and Gay Scuba Club for the active div-er in Northern California. Meets second Tuesday of every month, 7:30 p.m. at the Sierra Club, 730 Polk Street, San Francisco. Call Greg Abrams for more info, (415) 821-2877.

Saga North, lesbian and gay ski club. Call for more information (415) 995-2772.

San Francisco Spikes Men's Soccer. Practice Tues-days, 5:30-8 p.m., at Beach Chalet in Golden Gate Park. Call Carlo Togni at 821-4248. Women's Soccer. Call Golden Gate Women's Soccer League Chair Jan Mullen at 753-0946.

753-0946

Softball

S.F. Gay Softball League S.F. Gay Softball League — Conducts a regular season of 14 games for men and women in three divisions from March through June. Winter pick-up ball on Sundays: Two games are played, one at 10:30 a.m. and another at noon, at Christopher Field — located behind the west end of the Christopher Field — located behind the west end of the Safeway parking lot off Diamond Heights Blvd. Players of all skill levels are welcome. Please call Fred at (415) 381-0187 or Wendy at (510)436-7859 for information. 7959 for information.

Swimming

Tsunami Masters Swim ub — call Suzanne at 431-Club 1933.

Team San Francisco
Gay Games-bound Team
San Francisco hopes to take
at least 1,000 athletes from
the Bay Area to Gay Games
IV in New York, June 18-25,
1994. TSF supplies members
with the latest information
coming out of New York,
travel & housing, registration
packets for all sports, and a travel & nousing, registration packets for all sports, and a uniform for Opening and Closing Ceremonies, and funds to help you get there. Members recieve a quarterly newsletter and monthly calendars. To join TSF, call (415) 824-8118. 824-8118

Volleyball

Volleyball practice

Volleyball practice every Sunday, 8 p.m., at Eureka Valley, 100 Collingwood. Call Tony Travers at 255-1332. Club Volleyball practice for "B" league players and up every Saturday except first Saturday of each month, 9:30-11:30 a.m., at Eureka Valley, 100 Collingwood. Team and 11:30 a.m., at Eureka Valley, 100 Collingwood. Team and individual advanced players practice Mondays, 7:05 p.m., at Glen Park Gymnasium. Call Mike Bulawit at 731-2056. Gay Volleyball. Every Sunday, 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at 18th St. & DeHaro. Everynew elecome. Jav. 864-0257.

one welcome. Jay: 864-0257

Wrestling

San Francisco Wrestling Club practices Sundays, 3-5 p.m. Call Jim Frazier (510) p.m. Call 538-8490.

Golden Gate Wrestling Club. Practice Tuesdays evenings 7-9, Friday evenings 7-9, and Sundays 12:30-3 p.m. at Eureka Valley Rec Center, 100 Collingwood. All skill levels, men and women welcome. Call Gene at 821-291, or Daye Wagner at 558:8412 or Dave Wagner at 558-8412. Bay Area Wrestling Newsline at 227-5802.

Note: Your sports group can be listed here: Send Sports Guide the name of your group, a brief descrip-tion, the date, times, and locations of your practices, and a contact person for the group. B.A.R.'s Sports Guide, 395 9th St. SF CA 94103.



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Highland Ridge Hike

The Gay/Lesbian Sierrans The Gay/Lesbian Sierrans will sponsor a hike in the wilderness of Morgan Territory Regional Preserve, Saturday, February 5. Experience the beauty and wilderness of this area and its spectacular views. Eight-mile hike is not for beginners as there are significant elevation gains. Meet at Rockridge BART at 10 a.m. or call leaders by February 4 for directions to trail-head. Lunch, water, sturdy ary 4 for directions to train-head. Lunch, water, sturdy hiking boots are recommend-ed. Hike starts at 11:15 a.m. and ends around 5:30 p.m. Rain cancels. For informa-tion, call 510-233-9936, but not in the late againing in the late evening.

Point Reyes Hike

The San Francisco Hiking Club hosts a hike, Saturday, February 12 to Point Reyes Hill. Will get there by way of Bayview, Inverness Ridge and Bucklin Trails, Point Reyes National Seashore, Marin County, Meet: 8:45 a.m. under the big Safeway sign at Market and Church Sts. Departure is at 9 a.m. sharp. Moderately strenuous, 1200 foot elevations. Distance: 7.9 miles. Driving distance 45 miles each way. Cost per car: \$3 each way. Cost per car: \$3 bridge toll and \$9 mileage. Total of \$12 is to be divided among the passengers. Bring water, lunch and dress in layers. Rain cancels. ▼

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Women seeking adventure

Cute, petite, slim and very athletic WW seeks a cute woman of color to have have fun and who knows a possible relationship with. I would like to have coffee and talk woman of substance. EXT

GHF, 28, professional, N/S, lives for dancing, dining and romance, cute cuddly and kind seeks GHF of GWF under 40 who loves dancing and hates mind games, leans toward the feminine side. EXT

GWF soft/butch looking for a feminine but aggressive woman with a great sense of humor, mature and comfortable with sexuality. EXT 2031.

Men seeking relationships

nair, brown eyes, moustache. Any age, race, or size. Blonde, blue, age , race, or size. bioliue, blas, 31, handsome needs boyfriend for funtimes and romance. EXT 1993.

l am 32 thirsty for affectionate, stable seeking over 58, stocky a plus. Please call.EXT 1994

GPM, B/Br, 28, 5'7'', 60, beard, stache, HIVneg, sks int hairy, Med, Lat, Mideast, 30-45, or Bob Hoskins look alike, enjoy trvl, ínt'l music adventure. EXT 1995.

GWM, 39, hairy, husky, balding mustache seeks guy 20-30 with attractive boyish looks for possible relationship. I'm 5'9'', 190, HIVneg. EXT 1997.

bright eager lad to learn from bedroom to boardroom. I'm HIVpos, smoker. Live in possible.

Irish AM top, 43, big guy, hairy, heavy, easygoing wants Latino/Brasiliano masculine bottom, 25-40, HIVneg, good natured companero. In my arms.

GWM, nasty dad, 6'4'', 250, hairy chest seeks nasty son 20-30 for LTR. Son must like to orally service dad's entire body. Kinky mind!!! EXT 2000.

GWM, 33yo, slim wants sex or relationship with Asian, Latin, White, 25-40. Let's see what happens. EXT 2002.

GWM, 19 seeks GAM, 18-29, for dating, poss LTR. N/S, N/D, HIVneg, no attitude only please. I'm honest, shy, caring. Call me, I'm honest, shy, cari Let's talk. EXT 2003.

Hi. I am looking for romantic times as well as sexual love between us both. I am 50yo, br/bl, hung, warm, clean and healthy. EXT

Friendship and more GWM, 33yo, 5'9", 130lbs, looking for real people, 25-40 to dance, movies, quiet times with. No games please. EXT 2005.

3 way. GWM, 41/ GLM, 34 in shape looking for GAM or GLM in shape. Sex only. EXT2006.

Like to travel? Cancun, Rome, Paris? Like opera and classical music? GWM, HIVneg, 38, 5'6'', 130 UB2, for LTR. EXT 2007.

39yo WM seeking non-anal HIVneg man. Me 5'7'', 145lbs, B/B, non-smoker enjoy quiet moments and intimacy with one special friend. EXT 2028.

percent of his time on his knees wants humil from local boy. Use paddle to direct focus and motivate GWM, 44, musc.

Masculine GWM, 33, 6'2', 170 seeks WM under 40 for dating/relationship. Are you athletic, HIVneg, easygoing, handsome? Call mel EXT 2035.

Oakland GWM bottom, 39, seeks GBM top. Open but not limited LTR. East Bay only. EXT 2036.

Muscular, butch, body but deep inside you're a daddy's boy! WM, 43, 6'2'', 180, hung seeks serious LTRI Older, small endowed. Okay! HIVneg only. EXT2037.

Oral romance-- tall GWM, 46, smoker, HIVneg cut and hard lkng 4 a tall GWM, 40-54, smoker. HIVneg, cut for oral and spiritual growth. EXT 2038.

GWM bottom seeks GBM top to GWM bottom seeks GBM top to realize lifetime desires. I'm a young fit, 50, slim, fair, smooth and sensuous. We are HIVneg, health conscious, sane and prefer something ongoing. EXT 2039.

Big GWM, 32, 6'3', 285, average looking, relationship oriented. You L/A M. Likes movies, dinner quiet times. Your looks not important but heart is. EXT 2040.

Hot in shape GWM, 31, Br/Br, 140 seeks hot muscular man, 20-45, any race. I'm fun, safe, HIVneg, you too, pls. BB a pls. EXT 2041.

Paraplegic? seeking Gay, Bi, B/L/A M for para friends? Dating? GWM para 38, BL/GR red beard/stache, hairy chest. EXT 2042.

GWM, 39, bottom, 6', 165, looking for well hung African-American men, 35-50 for fucking and other sexual play. EXT 2043.

You big Bear! The more muscular you get, more dick you must suck! Me: GBM, 5'10'', 230, W/beard and hung. Tit/ass play. In Marin. HIVneg only. EXT 2044.

GAM tall, 32, 235, smkr nice guy still seeking LTR with chubby GW/A/Lm who is jovial, gd natured, caring, 35-55, HMMM...EXT 2045.

Wheelchair guy soon to be lawyer seeks big hearted, high self esteem, sincere guy to share enriching loving happiness and life. EXT 2046.

This GWM, 50, is lkng to be with GBM. My white body is lkg to rest between a yngr GBM body and I want to have you feed me your Black cock EXT2077.

BM, 45, dom top needs hot WM buns, 45 plus to explore. I'm interested in more than a one night

homebody, passionate, body and soul dependent Christian, music, Chaplin, Looney Toons,versatile, video. EXT 2080.

Prof GWM, mid 30's in East Bay looking to meet new people for friendships only. Numerous interests and tastes. Serious inquiries only please. EXT2081.

Practice Safer Sex. condom. Stay and play.

Distinguished prof, 48, GWM, 5'8'', 145, cute all over, fun, loving, caring, sexy needs a friend for LTR. Not into bars, stuck in Vallejo, waiting for you. 2082.

East Bay pec lover. Hard, hairy or smooth,big, round pecs . I'm 36. smooth 29 waist, hard defined sensitive nipples, let's oil up

If your horny deep in throat for 69 experiences with athletic and clean.EXT 2084.

nights in bed, morning showers together. I'm looking for guys who only sex but want companionship too. I'm a 44yo professional who keeps his body and mind in shape by swimming. Take a chance, call we could hit it off. EXT 2085.

GWM, 5'8", 155, BI/Br, HIVneg handsome, warm, friendly seeks clean and sober man for poss LTR COSTCO member a plus EXT2087.

Asian 27 looking for long term relationship, you are HIVneg male, masculine, not into the gay scene. ou are a top only. Straight, Bi Male. EXT 2088.

GWM, 32, blond mustache, bottom, hot butt seeks GWM, 25-45 top for hot sex. No drugs or trolls. Relationship for regular encounters desired. EXT 2027.

hard-bodied. Attr. strong GWM will wrestle you to the ground, maybe tie you up, and thoroughly work you over. Safe, sane, limits respected. EXT 2016.

Tough enough? You're lean,

Fuck buddy wanted. You: 18-40, under 185, eager mouth/ass, affectionate, non-smoker into w/s. Me: GWM, 48, hung, sensuous. Black, Hispanic, big balls a plus.EXT 2017.

So. Alameda county, HIVneg, cock hungry worshipper, mid-thirties, love to suck the juice out of young stiff cocks. Are you up for it? EXT

Attr 38yo Latin like to meet mature Latins only for sex, 45-55, no inhibitions, sm/ dr ok. Leave number, best time. No games. EXT

37yo musc blond defined, 5'9", 140, HIVneg seeks a defined, hairy chested friend for oral play, dating. East Bay. EXT 2020.

BM, HIVneg, 59yo, 9''UC wants submissive, deepthroated cumfreak masseur. Older, hung, pro-sword swallower a plus. looks unimportant. EXT 2023.

Athletic Legs owner will receive cocksucking seminar. EXT 2024.

I am a 50yo GWM daddy would l am a 50/0 GWW daduy would body to a warm healthy son. G/A/B/WM. I am ready for you anytime after 4:00pm weekends and holidays. Waiting. EXT 2025.

Me: Blond, flattop, handlebar stache, 38, 140, 5'9", HIVneg and always ready for raunchy manly sex. You; Short hair, moustache, handsome hunk who knows how eep the games in the bedroom

Three way, GWM, 41/GLM, 34,in shape looking for GA/LM, in shape. Sex only. EXT 2006.

SAFE SEX, SAFE SEX, SAFE SEX

Men seeking adventure

Dicksucker: GWM to svc GLM/GWM with 7"or more, your place. I'm experienced, 40 You're trim, 18-45, no big bellikickback! No recip: HIVpos. E.

GWM top satisfies smooth bottoms. Massage? BJ? Cum to ecstacy. EXT 2009.

Are you a younger Asian who appreciated an older WM? I'm 59, hung, horny, healthy, HIVneg. No fat, not bald, not bad. EXT 2010.

BARTALK AD OF THE WEEK

Embarass me by making me strip naked and follow your orders. Straight-acting, lean WM, 39 seeks trim masculine young guys. EXT 2111.

GWM. 41, 6'3", slim, blond, blue, stache, HIVneg seeks HIVneg AM, seek 25-50 for mutual pleasure Chinatown location. EXT 2011.

Prolonged nipple play, lingering kisses, oral action, affection too with GWM, 5'9", 158, blond, 49, HIVpos, smoker. Once or a lifetime. EXT2012.

Looking for expert to worship my beautiful clean Asian body. I am 28, 5'8", 135. EXT 2013.

You do bodywork. GWM, 5'11 165, very well built, 25, 165 kneads a deep massage. You: strong, happy passionate, 22-38. EXT 2014.

Intact male wanted for hot 69, erotic play. ME: WM, 36, fit, toned, you be similar but you have foreskin. Latinos and dark skin a plus. EXT 2015.

39 to WM seeking non-anal HIVneg man. Me: 5'7'', 145, BB, non-smoker, Enjoy quiet moments and intimacy with one special friend. EXT 2028.

Be My Lestat. Forget Cruise. Fly over the Golden Gate, share your other worldly powers, sleep all day, love all night. Your Louis awaits. EXT 2032.

You can leave your hat on, you can leave your boots on, you can leave your jacket on, you can leave your jeans on. Call to find what to remove. EXT 2048.

Butt - boner: 37 yo GWM, 5'8'', 140, bottom desires top to put boner up butt. EXT 2049.

Hot blk muscular guy into ff top/bottom kinds toys. 3 ways, video. EXT 2050.

Hey you! Want to fall in love? Call BarTalk Today!



The Bay Areas Wildest Personals 1-900-844-2227

Must be 18+. .98 cents per min.

Prolonged dick, balls and ass licking for fit white male under 42 by attr., 41 yo ,heavy set blk in Berkeley, My place. Recip unnec. EXT 2051.

Goodlooking WM, 33, hung big seeks gklkng guys, 160, 5'11", clean cut and work out four times weekly. EXT 2052

BM, 48, dom top, HIVpos sks sub GWM 30-48 for my use. You will be GR/p, Fr/p, spnk, whipped, etc. Subm, eager to please nature a must. EXT 2053.

Concord WM will massage GAM's n only, no \$. Tongue fingers oil or otion, you choose. Just ask. Open to most requests.EXT 2054.

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erso

Two goodlooking 32yo WMs, hung big (8.5 and 9plus) seek third for group action. Prefer in-shape and hung guys. Tops a plus. EXT 2067.

33yo Filipino, 5'11", 210, Blk/brn, lite smooth skin desires hairy chested hunk to lay back and unload. Mid Peninsula Area only. EXT 2066.

Beautiful blond seeks dark and hairy Latinos or Arabs for sweet and sweaty nights. EXT 2093.

Long haired blond surf boy seeks steriod monster B.B. at least 200lbs of beef. Dark and hairy a plus. EXT 2094.

Leo's only! Attractive 46 to professional GWM, 5'9", 170 seeks GWM Leo, 35-55 for ongoing affectionate, caring encounters. East Bay. EXT 2095.

l want to suck you off while finger-fucking you. Foreplay: Ass massage, lite spank. Me : Attr, GWM, 43, 6'5'', 280lbs. You: Attractive GWM 18-35. EXT 2095.

Fit WM, late 40's unaffected bottom seeks dominant top. I'm smooth, tight, very responsive and we both HIVneg, health conscious and very ready. Ongoing preferred. EXT 2097.

Poker playing buddy, smoke, drink, party guy wanted. Join three of us one or two times a month. EXT

Bald, Black, heavy, older East Bay top seeks masculine, mustached men over 40 for hot, safe sessions on my East Bay pad. EXT 2099.

Vertical sex. The idea: You come in. say hello, you take your cock and balls out. I do my thing, we say see you. Me GWM, BI/BI, EXT 2101.

Italian ex-football jock seeks oral expert servicing on a regular basis. Castro location. All serious replies considered. EXT 2102.

Feel my tongue up your hot butt and my moustache in your crack. Me: Hot 36, WM, 6', 160, Br/Bl. You: Hot and ready. EXT 2103.

Extraordinary hm vid collection of amazing cock swallowing tech. My bud has the biggest cock you ever seen and I can take all of it. Hndsm, Id back, expert wld Ik to choke down a giant. If you are hung really huge and wnt the best..this is it. Be STD free. Pumpers, Black men a plus. EXT2104.

Asian service station East Bay, GWM, orally services Asians to 35. Nipple work and massage. Tell me about you and what you like. EXT

Lking for hung W guys under 40 who lk to play and show it off, I 'm GWM, 32, 5'9", 145, tight smth swimmer's bld, vry gd shape, 30" waist, 8" cut. goatee, non-smoker, vers. You should be hung big and like to share it. If you hang long and big when soft that's a big

Bad boys often need their pants taken down and their bare bottoms taken down and their bare bottoms spanked. This big experienced 41yo spanking top has hand, paddle, strap, cane specially equipped room or will travel. Limits respected. Fantasies fulfilled. Bad behavior corrected, EXT 2107.

Attractive GBM, 40's, HIVneg seeks GWM, 50-65 daddy type with a big thick dick who like to lay back and enjoy his dick suck for hours. I'm good. EXT 2108.

You are: Smooth Latin, Asian bottom, HIVpos, prefer masc w/ no/few vises. Me: GWM, late 30's, Br/Bl moustache, Hairy, hung, stocky, passionate top. EXT 2109.

WM seeking BM. I'm 30, 6", 175, BI/BI, smoker, don't do drugs/alcohol. You: Well adjusted cute, funny, caring, friendly, loves to kiss and have sex. EXT 2110.

Bare chested, leather jacketed, Levi wearing, booted man wanted. Let me have my way with you. EXT

BM, 37, 6'1", 198, want someone 15-45 with big 91/2 for friend. No one night stand. Homeless okay, but big meat a must. EXT 2113.

Into very butch males, flattop hair, moustache, firm body, rimming sucking, fucking, no heavy booze/drugs. I'm 38, 5'9", 140, HIVneg, very uninhibited and very available, call and let's get nasty. EXT 2115.

Transgender

Gorgeous bedroom TV in lingerie seeks well hung man with place to play in SF, or Marin. Very discree and very trainable. EXT 1989.

STR WM seeks TV, very feminine for first time. Want to have your cock all nite. Gentle lovemaking to your body, am hot will answer all. EXT 2073.

Bisexual

Hot sexy WM seeks S.F. with strap on to teach me the joys of anal sex also love to masturbate for you. Safe and fun, poppers. EXT 1849.

Hot Bi Guy, 32, 5'10'', 150 smooth lean build,soft bedroom eye , endowed seeks a male/female /couple for mutual play. Mild to wild. EXT 1949.

BM, 6'1'', 185, muscular, hung clean shaven seeking Bisexual, Straight hung WM, Latinos, mid-20's to satisfy orally. EXT 1950.

Bi-AM seeks masc Bi/STR AM, Latino under 45, musc healthy w/hot dick. I'll tongue massage your crotch, armpit. Safe sex, clean. HIVneg. EXT 2072.

WM, 30, 145, really love Asian pussy but I like dick too, Let's look at some magazines and JO together. EXT 2078.

Couples

GWM 33, seeking hot couples or into butt play , voyeurism, exhibitionism, toys, and other kink, perm relationship poss. EXT 2034.

Hot couple Latino/ Caucasian, 32/33, into toys, hands, butts, love to party, allnighters seeking hot men who get into the same.

BarTalk Personals and the **BarTalk Bulletin Board**



Two great ways to meet. Make a connection today Call 1-900-844-2227.

Attention men over 50. Bad boy, 57, big thick tool needs whipping and loving. I'll make you feel great always do as I'm told. EXT 2055.

Hawaiian into sneakers (basketball nightops), white sox, jeans, ockstraps, white underwear for IO, suck sessions. Let's explore

Exp'd cocksucker wnts your cum on reg basis. if you are trim, W/L, 15-45 with 8'' plus. Must be clean,

Beefy well built 38yo WM seeks beefy, stocky, well bit masc guy to tongue fuck my musc bubble butt or let me lick yours. EXT 2059.

GWM, HIVneg, 48, attr wants huge, nice cocks to suck on like a pacifier sks dom conservative men, 36-60. E Bay. I'm hirsute, clean. EXT2060.

GWM, 50, into voyeurism, body worship and JO seeks heavily muscled WM over 35 for mutually rewarding goodtimes. EXT 2061.

Shy and talented cocksucker is trim, attractive and discreet. EXT 2062.

Hairy blonds and redheads drive this dark, hairy, musc man crazy! Pecwork, JO, and lots of chest to hest, crotch to crotch grinding !

seeks hot and horny men for regular sessions. call for description. Avail days and eves. EXT 2065.

HAVE YOU CHECKED YOUR MESSAGES TODAY.

Truly hndsm, laidback, oral xprt sks slender, well Hng and/or petite F. siender, well Hing and/or petite F. Oral sex is my spec. I hv a dp hot thrt and an extra long tongue. Spread yr legs and prepare to get amazed. HIVneg and squeaky cln only. EXT 2067.

GLM, 5'4'', 135, 37yo, bottom very horny and hungry seeks white tops for fun and possible relationship. EXT 2068. GLM. 5'4".

In shape WM, 5'11'', hung big needs other well bit WM hairy body with a big firm hairy bubble butt that wants aggressive tongue and that wants aggrecock. EXT 2069.

Muscular big chest, big legs, hung looking for like body type B/W for long sensual erotic sex. Leather adds to the anticipation.

Brown hanky top. Aggressive, muscular brown hanky top looking feed. Experience preferred. EXT 2071.

East Bay quest: Nice looking clean living, 38, tall, dark blond, lithely muscled seeks masculine, slender or hunky safe sex buddy. Attraction/passion important: So is warm rapport. EXT 2089.

49 yo White top, 9" cock seeks white muscular bottoms who like to be fucked by an older experienced man, prefer smooth

Oral expert BM, 6'1'', 185, muscular, hung seeks hung WM, Latinos, Pacific Islanders to satisfy orally. Bi/Straight okay. EXT2091.

GBM, 40yo, stocky, big chest endowed, 240lbs seeks fat, heavy set who enjoys long sessions of mutual dildo action. Let's open our butts. EXT 2092.

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MAIL TO: BAY AREA REPORTER, 395 9TH STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA. 94103

FRIDAY 4

African American Shakespeare Company Showcase Showcase of great scenes from Bill's best. \$7.8pm. Also Sat. New Conservatory Theatre, 25



Van Ness. 861-4914

Ballad of the Sad Cafe
Edward Albee's stage
adaptation of Carson McCullers'
Southern gothic tale of passion,

jealousy and revenge. \$10-15. 8pm. Thru 3/6. Phoenix Theatre, 301 8th St. 621-4423.

BlackMale
Poet/performers Jamez Smith,
Kain Olaniyan Adams, Reginald
Cox interrogate 90s notions of
Blackness,
homosex 'Negro
faggotry' & drag
politics. 8pm.
Backroom at 173
Clara. 227-0553.

Burn This
Kudzu Theatre's
production of
Lanford Wilson's
funny and sexy
play about a torrid
straight affair
between a restaurateur and a
dancer. Her gay
roommate
provides amusing
commentary. \$710. Thru 2/12. Brainwash
Theatre, 1126 Folsom at 7th.
995-4778.

Theatre, 1 995-4778.

Chesty Baker Chet's chanteuse



Giselle
San Jose Cleveland Ballet's production of the classic dance, accompanied by the San Jose Symphony. \$12-50. 7:30pm. Also matinees. Thru 2/6. San Jose Center for the Performing Arts. (408) matinees. T Jose Cent Performing 288-2800.

croons. \$7. 11pm. Fridays thru Feb. Eichelberger's, 2742 17th at Florida. 863-4177.

Classified
Fred Adler's high-energy oneman show about the cut-throat
modern world. \$10. Thru 2/12.
Climate
Theatre, 252
9th St. 6269196.

He Plays, She Sings... Jerome Kern! Andrew Moore and Diana Sheehan perform a musical story with songs by the composer of great cabaret songs, \$15. 8pm. Sun. at 2pm. Thru 3/13. New Conserv-atory Theatre, 25 Van Ness Ave. 861-8972.

Living Room Festival
Eclectic mix of video shorts
by Black artists, including
Marlon Riggs' Affirmations
and Ayanna Udongo's
Edges. 11pm. KQED Ch. 9.

La Maison Suspendue
Canadian playwright Michel
Tremblay's lyrical play about
three generations in one
Quebecois family, with a few
queer folk in it. \$14-16. 8pm.
Sun. at 2pm. Actors Theatre,
533 Sutter. 296-9179.

The Man With Straight Hair Ne wan With Straight Hair World premiere of George Birimisa's new play about two ex-lover roommates in the Bowery of the '50s. \$12. 7:30pm. Sun. at 2pm. Thru 2/13. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th at Mission. 861-5079.

No Man's Land Aurora Theatre Company's production of Harold Pinter's sinister verbal joust between two aging poets and their servants. \$12-18. 8pm. Thru 2/20. Berkeley city Club, 2315 durant Ave., Berkeley. (510) 843-4822.

Oakland Ballet
Mixed repertory program of classics, including Leonide
Massine's Gaite Parisienne, Lou
Christensen's Nothin' Doin' Bar,
and Eugene Loring's The Tender
Land, with music by Aaron
Copeland, \& 8-39. Thru \(2/5.\)
8pm. Paramount Theatre, 2025
Broadway, Oakland. (510) 762BASS.

Salon DadA/ a contraDICTION Multimedia audience partici-pation version of Artaud's Jet of Blood and Tzara's The Gas Heart. \$10-12. Thru 2/20. Open Egg Theatre, 450 Geary. 673-1172.

SATURDAY 5

Amnesia
Beth Bt's multimedia installation
and retrospective video
screening, with taped performances by Jack Smith, Lydia
Lunch, Robbie McCauley, John
Lurie. Thru 2/19. New Langton
Arts, 1246 Folsom. 626-5416.

Mardi Gras Beer Bust Benefit for Maitri AIDS Hospice. Food, prizes. Costumes encouraged! \$6. 3-7pm. Lone Star Saloon, 1354 Harrison.

Mardi Gras Jambalaya Party and show with host Trauma Flintstone, Miss X and



The Secretaries

New York's Five Lesbian
Brothers perform their insane
new comedy about Big Bone,
Oregon, and a lumber mill run
by high-heeled, high-haired
secretaries who binge on
Slimfast and kill lumberjacks.
\$10-20. 8pm. Sat. at 5pm.
Sun. at 3pm. Thru 2/19.
Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th
at Mission. 861-5079.

The Sum of Us David Stevens' pleasant story of a Melbourne soccer-playing gay son and his coming out to

Laura Nyro A solo concert by the acclaimed vocalist and para-lesbian. Melanie DeMore opens. \$14-18. 8pm. First Congregational Church, 27th & Harrison, Oakland. (510) 835-1445.

Robert Duncan in Word and Image Readings of the poet by Thom Gunn, Aaron Shurin, Margy Sloan, Norma Cole and others, who will also read their own work as well. Free. 3pm. Danforth Lecture Hall, Aron Art Center, Mills College, 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. (510) 430-2164.

many dragutantes. 10 Lily's, 4 Valencia at Market.

Seven Lively Sins Julie Queen, multi-toned vocalist, sings lusty, lonely songs of Kurt Weill. \$6. Saturdays thru Feb. Eichelberger's, 2747 17th at Florida. 863-4177.

Straight For the Money Celebration of queer experience in the sex industry. Strippers, phone sex workers, porn stars, strippers and the like. Sponsored by Sex Workers Action Coalition (SWAC). 9pm. Komotion, 2779 16th St.

What To Call Home An evening with Nina Wise & Friends, a performance about the Jewish experience seen through modern eyes. Thru 2/27, Magic Theatre, Fort Mason Center. 441-8822.



Thank the Lord for the Dyketime

Phranc is back with her special tribute to Neil Diamond, "Hot August Phranc." Dig her sideburns as she croons the tunes of the living legend. In Interview magazine, Diamond said he heard about our fave folk surfer dyke's act and wanted to see it, so why don't you? Opening for Neil will be Phranc as Phranc. \$13. Feb. 5 & 6 at 8pm. Great American Music Hall, 859 O'Farrell St. 885-0750.

his blue-collar dad, \$8-24. 8pm. Sun. at 2 & 7pm. Thru 2/13. Marin Theatre Company, 397 Miller Ave., Mill Valley. 388-5200.

Those Damn Calla Lilies Artfull Circle Theatre has concocted another play version snatched from a film classic, this time Stage Door. Connie Champagne stars. \$20. 8pm. Thru 2/27, 626-5455.

20:10 Legacies of Collaboration Repertory performances to celebrate the decades of work by Margaret Jenkins Dance Company, Paul Dresher Ensemble and Kronos Quartet. \$16-45. Thru 2/19. Theatre Artaud, 450 Florida. 621-7797.

Veronica Klaus Soulful live music. This show will be recorded for Veronika's next CD. Also, Bambi and Lu Read. \$5. 10pm. Komotion, 2779 16th St. 861-6423.

SUNDAY 6

Angels in the Castro
Paintings of winged beauties by
T.R. Colletta can be seen in
shops throughout the Castro
area, including A Different
Light, 489 Castro.

By Hand and Nature Chip Gibbons' documentary about being asymptomatic and HIV positive for 14 years. Sundays thru Feb. 10:30pm. Viacom Ch. 47.

Kenny Fries Author of The Healing Notebooks reads from his work. 7:30pm. A different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

Scott Siedman "Love Over Death," an exhibit of erotic and religious artworks that resemble ancient murals. Morphos Gallery, 544 Hayes. 626-1936.

Star Search Karaoke Asian AIDS Project's Rubber

Street Signs You may remember the four 10X10' paintings of the LA cops who beat up Rodney King. Those were on Van Ness. Perhaps you recall the huge portrait of Keith Meinhold and the bold pro-gay political statement that accompanied it. That was shown on Market through Gay Pride. The creator of these paintings has finally been corraled into showing his work in an indoor space. See new portraits and paintings by Aaron Wade, whose squirmy warm strokes seem to keep moving even after they're finished. Opening reception Feb. 4, 6-8pm. The show continues through Feb. 26 at the new Bucheon Gallery (355 Hayes St., 2nd. Floor. 863-2891), which, by the way, is run by two faboo lesbians. There goes the neighborhood.

lesbians. There goes the neighborhood. BAY AREA REPORTER FEBRUARY 3, 1994 PAGE 46 Friday Adjus Andy Valen winni

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Th

Club has ongoing singing contests with cash, prizes and a little safe sex info in between. 8pm. N'Touch Club, 1548 Polk St. To register, call 227-0946.

Uncle Vanya New translation of Anton Chekov's deceptively simple and comic play about the lives of the residents at a remote country estate \$12-38. Spm & 2pm. Thru 3/6. Marines Memorial Theatre, 609 Sutter at Mason. 749-2ACT.

MONDAY 7



Was a Teenage Serial Killer

lt's cult movie night! \$3. 8:30pm. The Elbo Room, Valencia near 17th. 552-7788.

Gay Comedy Open Mike Aspiring comics can call to sign up by 7pm. \$5. 8pm. Josie's, 16th & Market. 861-7933.

TUESDAY 8

Beauty and the Beast We know this ice skating production of the hit Disney flick is a patriarchal embodi-ment of sexism, looksism, or whatever, and that it cost six



million dollars worth of dancing spoons and Walt Disney was a homophobe. Nevertheless, it's fun for kids of queer parents, who may also enjoy the cute skaters. Oakland Coliseum thru 2/14. Cow Palace 2/16-21. San Jose Arena 2/23-27. (510) 760-BASS.

Gay & Lesbian Folk Dancing Lessons at 7:30-8pm, dancing full tilt 8:00-9:30pm. Each week at Eureka Valley Community Center. 585-9784.

Jonathan Parker
Exhibit of portraits by the self-taught Oakland painter. Thru 2/26. Intersection for the Arts Gallery, 446 Valencia. 626-2787.

Minnie Pearl Necklace Fried chicken Tuesdays at eichelbergers with country camp band. \$5, 2742 17th. 863-4177.

WEDNESDAY 9

Addressing Herself Group exhibition of works by women about female sexuality, fetishism, self-representation and transformation. Thru 3/5. The Lab, 1807 Divisadero. 346-4063.

Between
Thumb and Forefinger
Barbara DeGenevieve's exhibit
of work exploring sexuality,
gender images and age
differences. Thru 2/19. Eye
Gallery, 1151 Mission. 4316911.

Female Trouble A pre-Valentine soiree with I.C. Wet, Spanking Violets, DJ Stephanie Phillips. Dyke-aramal bottom of the Hill. 1233 17th St. 626-44455.

Lesbian & Gay Film Class
Daniel Mangin shows rare and popular screen clips and features with queer themes. This week: Tea & Sympathy. \$49. Screenings thru June. 6:30pm. Everett Middle School, 17th & Church. Also 2-5pm, Wed. & Thu., City College, Cloud Hall, Rm. 247. 239-3383.

THURSDAY 10

Coming Home Hospice Bingo Play and raise funds for the hospice. \$12 buy-ins. 7pm. 100 Diamond St. 552-7454.

Hugh Shurley
Exhibit of mixed media collages, modern in construction, but classic in style. Thru 2/12.
John Pence Gallery, 750 Post St. 441-1138.

New World (Dis)Order
Exhibit of works by 13
California women artists
exploring the changing nature of
identity. Thru 4/4. Center for
the Arts Gallery, 701 mission at
3rd. 978-ARTS.

A Taste of Somewhere Else Medea Project's theatre work based on the Greek Sisyphus myth, performed by recovering women inmates. \$10-17. 7:30pm. Thru 2/19. Center for the Arts, 700 Howard. 978-ARTS.

Urban Images Photography by Native Americans and Hawaiians. Thru 3/5. American Indian Contemporary Arts, Monadnock Bldg. 685 Market. 495-7600.

Weegee
Photo exhibit of work by the
artist who documented New
York's grisly murders, glorious
drag queens and gritty
inhabitants. Vision Gallery,
1155 Mission. 621-2107.



The Revolution Will Be Televised

Friday February 4, get a double dose of Marlon Riggs. ATA Gallery will show Riggs' Color Adjustment, a 90-minute critique of television myths about Black America, from Amos 'n' Andy and Julia to Good Times and The Cosby Show. \$5. 8:30pm, ATA Gallery, 992 Valencia 824-3890. Then pop home for Creative Mind: Marlon Riggs in which the award-winning maker of Ethnic Notions, Tongues Untied and Color Adjustment is the subject of a two-part interview documentary. 10:30pm. Part 2 airs Feb. 11, 10:30pm. KQED, Channel 9.

This Week's Dinner Specials

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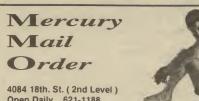
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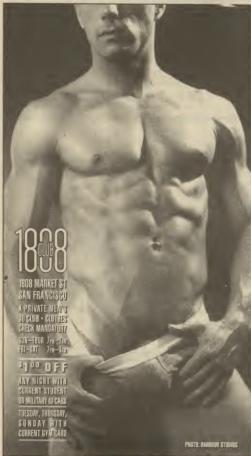


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BAY AREA REPORTER FEBRUARY 3, 1994 PAGE 48

AREA REPORTER

Mr. Marcus

SF's New Goddess of Leather: Diana Hardick

t's ironic that the new Ms. Leather of San Francisco was named after a mythical goddess. It's doubtful that any other female leather-title holder has a magnificent statue erected in honor of her namesake in Mexico City, a tribute to Diana, Goddess of the Hunt.

In her fantasy before a huge turnout (actually more men than women!) last Saturday at Pleasuredome, the 36-year-old leather Hardick (see year-old leather Hardick (yes, that's really her name), fan-tasized that she was a huntress encountering a wild cat (Tina Carroll), who eventually captured our heroine and caged her, shredded and bloodied, before a wildly cheering audience cheering audience.

Diana Hardick was the only contestant who faced the judges, but that didn't mean judges, but that didn't mean she was guaranteed to win the coveted title. She apparently pleased the judges in the interview. Her demeanor onstage was forceful, but not pushy. Her speech was genuine and her apparent 11 years of experience hardly makes her a newcomer to leatherdom. She was well received by the audience and garnered a standing ovation when Queen Cougar sashed her as the new Ms. San Francisco Leather. Her shiny boots couldn't match the sparkle in her eyes.

A native of Montana and a single triple Aries, our newest title-holder spent a lot of time in New Hampshire. She's a biker (Harley Davidson!) and her club, Hells Belles, sponsored her for this competi-tion. She's employed as a pro-duction facilities manager and



Diana Hardick is the 8th Ms. Leather of San Francisco. An Aries, biker member of Hell's Belles and named for the Goddess of the Hunt, she won the title last Saturday night, Jan. 29 at Pleasuredome.

has no problem expressing enthusiasm. She has a delight-ful personality! The communi-ty looks forward to Diana's year with the title. The whole production last Saturday night was flawless. With Queen Cougar's wild-in-

the-jungle fantasy opening the-jungle fantasy opening number and Jo Leroux as the great white hunter, this was camp as only La Cougar can dish it out. Queen's farewell speech was upbeat. A nostal-gic look at her appearances



The moment of truth for Diana Hardick as outgoing Ms. SF Leather Queen Cougar ''sashes'' her successor to a standing ovation by the big crowd last Saturday night, Jan. 29. Thanks, Queen Cougar, for a great year.



Lee Tucker won the Feb. 1995 spot on the Eagle's Bare Chest Calendar last Thursday, Jan. 20. He is also on the 1994 calen-dar. They'll be selecting Mr. March on Thursday, Feb. 3.

(Continued from previous page)
around the country and her
continuing commitment to her brothers and sisters, added to the evening's pleasures. A drag number by "Enroute," the singing group, and Lenny Broberg and Skeeter Wildman emceeing added to the fun. A great evening! I'm sorry you weren't there. Diana Hardick will represent our city in the International Ms. Leather competition in March. And to Audrey Joseph and Jamie Santos (happy birthday, darrrrling!), and their crew, congratulations on another sterling production!

Next up is Mr. San Fran-



Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather, Richard Benoit, during the jock strap competition at Tracks in Washington, D.C. the weekend of Jan. 14-17.

cisco Leather on Saturday night, April 16. From where I'm standing it looks like we'll have at least a half-dozen or more contestants. If any of you are aspiring to the title—and the commitment(s) that go with it—there are preliminary competitions. First out, Mr. Watering Hole Leather takes place on Friday, February 12th. The winner gets \$300 and a chance to represent that bar in the biggie in April. Richard Faust, who did a hell of a job with the title, will step aside that night.

On Wednesday, March 2,

On Wednesday, March 2, Mr. SF Leather, Greg Byfield, will pass on his Mr. Jackhammer Leather title in a competition at that bar. Only six days later, Tuesday, March 8, Mr. Headquarters Leather will be picked to succeed Jeff Matthews.

Matthews.

Tony Amato will pass his sash to the new Mr. Edge Leather on Friday, March 18 and the last one I have on the list is the Mr. San Francisco Eagle Leather on Thursday, March 24. Andy Rose will step aside for his successor that night. No word on whether Mr. Pit Leather at Cocktails will run a contest this year or the Lone Star Saloon. Prizes for the winners in all of the above will be announced as soon as I get the press releases. Now's the time to start thinking about entering! Applications for the competitions at all of the above bars should be available even as you read this.



Diana Hardick gives her speech before the audience and judges at the Ms. SF Leather Contest last Saturday night, Jan. 29.

(Photo: Mr. Marcus)

The Dishcovery Channel

Nothing but raves about the grand opening party of The Lure in New York City The Lure in New York City last Saturday night, January 29th. Wally Wallace (of Mineshaft fame) has scored big with this one, so next time you're in the Big Apple, drop in. Remember, there is a mandatory dress code at The Lure (Leather, Uniforms, Rubber, Etc.) on weekends and cologne is always forbidden!

den!

And speaking of bars, a new owner has taken over what used to be Griff's Bar (4216 Melrose at Vermont) in Los Angeles. Since they assumed control of the bar the day before the big earth-quake, it's only appropriate that they decided to call it The Faultline. At present, it's undergoing extensive renovation, but I'll let you know when the Faultline will be open for leathery business!

(Continued on next page)

(Continued on next page)





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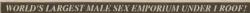




BAY AREA REPORTER

FEBRUARY 3, 1994

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Six Feet Tall and A Big Thunder Cock

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Mr. Marcus



The suspension demo was one of the highlights of the show at Mid-Atlantic Mr. Leather by Len Griffith and his crew. It brought down the house.

(Continued from previous page)

(Continued from previous page)

If you're planning ahead, NLA:San Diego is gearing up for their big Leatherfest VI weekend (March 11-13). This chapter is one of the most progressive entities of the NLA and one of the most respected. A whole series of workshops and lectures will take place along with an awards banquet, day bike run, and other fun activities. The host hotel is the Raddison Mission Valley and you can call NLA San Diego (800) 598-1859 for details, prices and other information. More on this one later.

Mr. San Diego Leather, Ed Morøan passes on his sash the weekend of February 25-27. Meet and greet contestants and judges on Friday, and go to the contest on Saturday at 2200. Call (619) 294-9337 for details. Lenny Broberg will emcee. It promises to be a fun weekend. ▼



Mr. Spike New York, Andy Borden, 2nd runner-up in the Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather contest, was a crowd favorite in the jock

Affairs to Remember

Thursday, Feb. 3: Looking for Mr. March on the 1994 Bare Chest Calendar at the Eagle tonight at 2200. Win \$100 and help out the AIDS Emergency Fund.

Fund.
Friday, Feb. 4: Grant
Dupont celebrates his ??th birthday tonight with a big party at
the SF-Eagle beginning at 2000.
With an \$8 beer/soda bust, 50/50

the SP-Eagle beginning at 2000. With an \$8 beer/soda bust, 50/50 rafifle, surprises, and show — all to benefit the AIDS Emergency Fund. See you there? Saturday, Feb. 5: The Cal Eagles MC celebrates its 10th anniversary on the SP-Eagle patio this evening from 1800-2100. By invitation or club overlay. Meet their new officers and partake of this landmark occasion. Congratulations, Eagles, and best wishes for continued success.

Vern Stewart and Bill Gooch step aside as the King and Prince of Leather at the Krewe de Cuir Mardi Gras coronation tonight at the Swedish American Club. Twelve leather "chevaliers" will bite into the Mardi Gras cake to see who will reign during the next year, beginning at 2000. You must wear a mask!

Benefit beer/soda bust at the Lone Star Saloon from 1500-1900 for the Mariti Flospice. Costumes encouraged for the \$6 beer/soda bust, raffle, food and surprises. Jo Carol will perform, so it should

be hot! With Mark Wood as the new manager, look for some innovative fun at the Lone Star.

Sunday, Feb. 6: The Stop AIDS Project and Lenny Broberg's softball team host the Eagle's beer/soda bust today from 1500-1800, for \$8, with food. The door prizes are the 365 Dicks Calendars. No show, no speeches — only raffle prizes, beer, food and cruising!

If you're in Seattle, the only place to be is the Mr. Seattle Leather Contest at Neighbor's Bar this evening around 1900. The winner will compete at Intl. Mr. Leather in Chicago next May.

Mr. Leather in Chicago next May.

Wednesday, Feb. 9: The 1995 Great Buns calendar contests begin tonight, and they're looking for Mr. January beginning at 2130 hours. Win cash, fame, fortune and more. Applications available now.

Week Feb. 11-20: In Melbourne, Australia? Melbourne's Leather Pride Week continues for nine days. Check out the Laird for all the fun things going on, and say hi to the Jackaroos

Laird for all the fun things going on, and say hi to the Jackaroos and the Melbourne Leather Men! Saturday, Feb. 12: The Sacramento Leather Association presents its Mr. Sacramento Val-ley Leather contest as John Yant passes on the sash tonight. It's at The Sierra Inn; tickets are \$12

advance/\$15 door. Call (916) 863-3398 for more details.

King and Queen of the Hop will be selected at the Pilsner Inn at its 12th annual sock hop, with dancing and hula hoop contests in the '50s style. Beginning at 2000 and hosted by Tom "Sue Ellen" Begano. Always a fun time, this event was started by former Mr. SF Leather, the late Jim Cvitanich.

Mr. Watering Hole Leather contest at the Watering Hole at 2100. Winner gets \$300 cash and maybe a sash. Represent the Hole at the Mr. San Francisco Leather contest in April.

Dyke Daddy Jo Leroux presents a St. Valentine's Day Massacre dance in The Pit at Cocktails tonight beginning at 2000. Only \$5 at the door and a 50/50 raffle to benefit Lyon-Martin Women's HIV unit.

Sunday, Feb. 13: Forum of San Francisco hosts the beer/soda bust at the SF-Eagle, 1500-1800, \$8, food, cruising galore. Don't miss it!

A day of music and laughter for Brownie Mary at The Bear from 1300-2100, with a beer/soda bust from 1600-2100 for \$6. Donations of flour, sugar, cocoa or other baking goods. Also, lots of entertainment!

Books

Truth

strating, for example, the curious and corrupt way the use of drugs has been criminalized over the last 70 years. These histories are at once the vice and virtue of his hook. They fatter it beyond. book. They fatten it beyond forgiveness, it's true, but they also make fascinating reading, and more than justify the expense (if not the heft) of the

book.

If the arguments against consensual crime are as absurd as McWilliams shows the consensual crime how did we. they are, then how did we land ourselves in such a mess? The answer is apparent to any queer who's ever had to argue for her or his natural

Pornucopia

rights: "Almost all consensual rights: "Almost all consensual crimes find the basis of their restrictions and prohibitions in religion." This disturbing fact prompts McWilliams to include an additional 200 pages on "Consensual Crimes and the Bible." With the assistance of some pages on "Consensual Crimes and the Bible." With the assistance of some pages on "Consensual Crimes and the Bible." With the assistance of some pages on "Consensual Crimes" and the Bible." With the assistance of some pages on "Consensual Crimes" and the Bible." With the assistance of some pages on "Consensual Crimes" and the Bible." With the assistance of some pages on "Consensual Crimes" and the Bible." With the assistance of some pages on "Consensual Crimes" and the Bible." With the assistance of some pages on "Consensual Crimes" and the Bible." and the Bible. With the assistance of some marvelous computer software (Biblesoft, QuickVerse, Bible Library), McWilliams illuminates why the Bible is "the book quoted most often to relieve us of our personal freedoms." For those of the whole here adjusted the of us who have endured the Bible-mania of the Christian right (and who hasn't?), this deconstructive book-within-the book is worth the bulk of the whole.

Facts on file

As a bonus, McWilliams

supplies a handy state-by-state chart of which consensual crimes are illegal where. Fun facts: in New Mexico the age of consent is 13; Vermont has the least laws against consensual crimes; Virginia and Idaho have the most. Prostitution is the only consensual crime illegal everywhere.

Finally, in a fit of desktop publishing precocity, McWilliams has garnished each page of the book with its each page of the book with its own boxed bon mot, citing everyone from Jerry Falwell to Divine. The sentiment of his own book is best expressed in the words of a certain Laurence J. Peter: "I hate people who are intolerant." Exactly.

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Lords of Leather

Cryston straddling Vincent's beer-can size cock. Storm shoves him off the moment he comes, then gets his own

other sex scenes are above par, but the fiery, near violent nude wrestling scene between Vincent and Steve Gibson is a big turn-on, with lots of nasty throws and flopping dicks, plus plenty of vulnerable asscrack shots preceding the actual sex between these two muscular studs. For a moment we think that Vincent's impregnable behind might be plowable (it does get a good finger and tongue poking), but Vincent is victorious and, as usual, on top. Match point.

Rassle All Worlds' Video

FEBRUARY 3, 1994

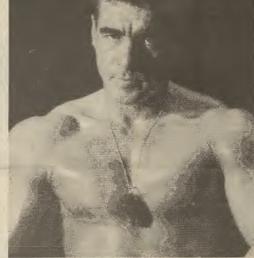
Clothes Make the Man ur latest batch of debauchery includes two gems worthy of onanistic nterest. Lords of Leather is defily made, amusing treat.

Rob Cryston ogles guest Jon Vincent, who's dropped by to visit Cryston's busty female roommate. Cryston soon hops into fantasy land, sporting choke collar and studded har-ness, as does Vincent, the ness, as does vincent, the growling, scenery-chewing balls-erina of this scene.

Oddly, the duo does it in a fruity Laura Ashley four-poster bed, an ironic femme twist. Vincent sure can spew dirty talk, but his jizz shots

arrely measure up to his verbal cantos. Fortunately, slut-pig Cryston delivers as usual, being the best little bottom in the world. Oh, that snarl. It

ought to be bottled!
Other scenes take place in a leather bar we'd like to visit, where blowjobs by the pool table and a four-way on the go-go stage are part of an



Book Brief

Affirmation, Not Despair

Pat Califia's Sensuous Magic is a friendly, non-threatening, helpful guide and resource for "adventurous couples" who are interested in expanding the erotic boundaries of their sexual relationship. The book provides a good grounding for the couple new to those activities included under the general term of S/M, which can include role-playing (dominant/submissive), costume fetish, restraint, erotic (pleasurable) pain, all of which may or may not include genital activity.

This is a practical, sensitive introduction to the basics, the language of erotic play and essential materials. Importantly, Califia emphasizes the primacy of good communication and negotiation between participants, as these elements foster the trust and safe-

guage of erotic play and essential materials. Importantly, Califia emphasizes the primacy of good communication and negotiation between participants, as these elements foster the trust and safety needed to achieve mutual consent. Califia emphasizes that consensual erotic activity is "not about rape, abuse or degradation." The purpose of doing this is, she writes, "to give you release, not resentment; affirmation, not despair."

Sensuous Magic is punctuated with fictional examples that provide inspiration for possible scenes, some new ways to approach "vanilla" sex, and exercises to prompt discussion of variations of play potential. Califia's checklist helps determine both attractions and aversions regarding specific activities. The ability to have fun is important, and Califia's signature wit underscores the fact that the very notion of "play" is integral to S/M activity. Her use of the term "sensual magic" (the phrase "sensuous magic" was coined by the late Cynthia Slater, founder of the Society of Janus) is two-fold: it "acknowledges the ritualistic nature" of many fantasies and "the ecstatic or transcendental states that some people enter as a result of S/M play." Califia also intends to "counter some of the ugly edge of the popular press which uses terms like 'sadist' and 'masochist' to describe only crazy, sad and violent people." She captures the power of what it means to enter forbidden terrain, and to do so safely with someone else, and to explore the healing potential, spiritual aspects and the depth of S/M. ▼

—Noreen C. Barnes

evening's entertainment. Kinky variations include a black man giving then getting head and a boot polish by a muscle-bound blond who later impales himself on a huge dildo in the toilet.

The tape's best scene is when Cryston, wandering through this dreamlike tavern, finds a sexy pissoir and attaches his ass to now pumped-up Jared Clark, who fucks him while another studlet tickles his tonsils. Cryston's finale, which shows him coming then jacking off his oral partner while getting fucked, is worth watching fucked, is worth watching again and again. Ooh, that snarl!

Lords of Leather Stallion Video

Sex Sans Singlets

Anyone who's ever wondered what it's like to wrestle on a gay team should know that the reality is more athletic than sexual. Yet the myth of sexual high jinks in singlets persists, and Rassle is no exception.

Teamboys Rob Cryston and Randy Storm get butt in-spections by growling hulk coach Jon Vincent. He fingers their holes on his desk, then plows them both. The ensu-ing fucking is quite fun, with

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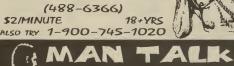
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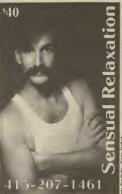
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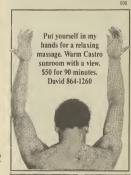
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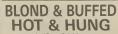


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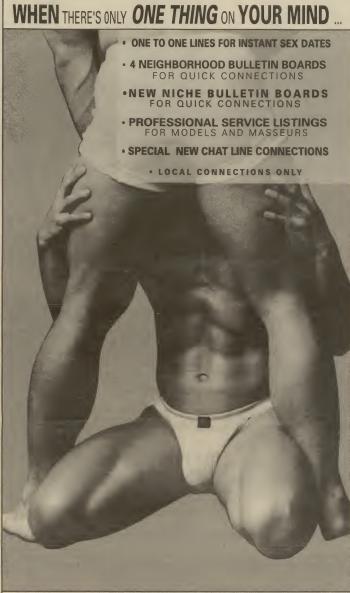
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